

Rail loss down, but board predicts revenue slump

By Michael Baily, Transport Correspondent

British Rail yesterday reported a loss last year of £17m compared with £76m in 1980. But that was mainly because of £110m of extra grant unexpectedly announced in November by Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, to help passenger business over the recession.

The other area of improvement was freight, which had losses from £53m in 1980 to £25m, a remarkable achievement with industry at low ebb.

But in announcing the results yesterday, Sir Peter Parkes, British Rail chairman, said that even without further industrial action, which most people in the industry are expecting when Lord McCarthy reports there will be a sharp deterioration in the year. Net revenue losses already amount to £60m to £70m because of the January strikes.

"As I write," Sir Peter says in a special section of the annual report headed *Change*, we are awaiting the decision of the tribunal. Whatever the outcome, 17 days of strikes in the first six weeks of 1982 have seriously damaged the industry.

"There are no victories at the end of strikes which have weakened our financial base and taught our competitors how to mind our business." But "the board is dedicated to modernizing the railway. That includes modernizing the pay and conditions of railwaymen and women; it also means deserving by proven performance a new approach to finance and investment."

"The Aslef [Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen] strikes have disrupted the progress of recent years, but they have not diverted us from our objectives."

For the first time for four years British Rail failed to stay within its external financial limits, exceeding the £920m limit by £40m. That

was in spite of investment spending of £308m, being £93m below the permitted ceiling because of cash limit constraints.

The board is still hoping for electrification in spite of the tough new conditions set by the Government before approving further schemes. "I am convinced that the future railway will be electrified because, once done, that is the cheapest railway to operate for the country," Sir Peter says.

"On the Channel tunnel, he says: 'There seems now a real chance at last that the railway passenger by the end of the decade, might travel in comfort and at a reasonable price between London and Paris or Brussels in little more than four hours'."

The likely choice is a single seven-mile tunnel limited to rail in the first place. But Sir Peter says that "light at the end of the tunnel has proved so often a false dawn."

Highlights from the annual report are:

Passengers: Receipts passed £1,000m for the first time, 7 per cent up at £1,023m. But in real terms that was a drop of 4 per cent on 1980. Passenger journeys at 71m were down 5 per cent and passenger miles at 19,100m 3 per cent down.

About a third of revenue came from reduced fares and special promotions, with Railcards continuing to boost revenue. Coach travel identified on inter-city routes and cost the board and estimated £10m.

Freight: Losses were cut by more than half to £25m.

Carriage increased slightly to 154 tonnes, with coal, iron, and steel up. But those gains were offset by falls in petroleum and aggregates.

The network of high-speed wagonload services to 72, and carriages to 3.5 million tonnes a year. Parcel revenue fell 15 per cent to £113m after withdrawal from the loss-making collected and delivered sector, but Red Star express parcels developed new service improvements.

Sealink: loss of £700,000, hotels a loss of £24m; property a surplus of £37m; and Freightliner a surplus of £100,000.

Manpower: Rail staff fell by 7,662 or 4 per cent in the year, and total British Rail staff was down 12,428 to 227,252. In one year 12,700 railway establishment posts were abolished, a third of the 38,300 reduction sought over five years.

About 90 per cent of passenger trains arrived on time or within five minutes compared with 89 per cent in 1980. The average was 5.33p a mile compared with 4.82 in 1980 and the government grant a mile 2.30.

Only 1.1 per cent of trains were cancelled compared with 1.4 in 1980, another statistic due to be knocked flat by Aslef disputes this year.

BR PASSENGER TRAFFIC, ESTIMATED RESULTS 1981

	Direct Expenses and revenue	Direct Expenses	Revenue	Contribution to Indirect Costs
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Inter-City	344	472	128	
London and South East	316	423	107	
Other provincial services	141	88	(73)	
PTE services	83	81	(22)	
	884	1,024	140	

Cold store for early tulip crop

By Nicholas Timmins

The unseasonal warm weather, with scarcely a sign of the traditional April shower, has meant up to a million of the eight million tulips needed for the annual Spalding flower show being put into cold storage because they have bloomed too soon.

The long dry spell, between 19 and 21 days without rain over much of England and Wales, produced a fine crop for the tulip men, with some of the rarer white, yellow and deep crimson varieties now carpeting the Lincolnshire fields. The National Farmers Union is not complaining, at least not yet. Some of the beet and potato growers are getting out their prayer mats and beginning to pray for rain. "They could do with some rain, but they also want the sunshine. Farmers want one sort of weather on one field and another in the next."

The Meteorological Office is resolutely refusing to reach for the record books although in London it has not rained for 20 days. The record post-war dry spell for April is 24 days in 1974. April runs out tomorrow. Besides, the rain that has already trickled into the North and West is on its way South.

In Cardiff it has not rained for 21 days at the Meteorological Office there. "That's a record," a spokesman cheerfully remarked, "but then we only moved here on December 1." Two years ago it refused to rain for about seven weeks at this time of year in South Wales, while last year it snowed.

Such experiences make cynics of the weather men, when faced with journalists. "There is almost nothing about the weather in this country that is unusual," one remarked yesterday. "We seem to get just about anything at any time of year."

As to what a fine April means for the rest of the summer, you pay your money and take your choice. The Meteorological Office, having abandoned its long-range forecast, is certainly not predicting. The summer of 1954, following the dry April, was "pretty awful", while the dry April of 1974 led on to nothing very special, but the dry April of 1976 was followed by the famous drought — or as a weather man put it with formidable understatement, "it stayed generally dry."

Ex-TV head attacks 'rude' interviewers

By Kenneth Gosling

Broadcasters may have brought on themselves new legislative and judicial restrictions, Lord Windlesham, former managing director of ATV Network, said in London last night.

He accused some broadcasters of arrogance and insensitivity. "The fashionable hostility, the catch questions, the facetiousness, sometimes the downright rudeness of interviewers can only have deepened the divide between those who practise politics, or some other honourable profession, and those who report their activities," he said.



Lord Windlesham: 'Too many catch questions'.

Lord Windlesham, delivering a Home Office bicentenary lecture in association with the Royal Institute of Public Administration, said some people thought the pendulum had swung too far since the deferential days when it was thought to be "quite right" for a television reporter to press a minister to answer a question he preferred to dodge.

"It is now timely, I suggest, for broadcasters to scrutinize what might be described as standard interviewing techniques and to ask themselves whether they have not played a part, however unwittingly, in the decline of political values that is so noticeable a feature of the current scene."

He had earlier said that it would be misleading to think of the condition of semi-freedom in which broadcasting operated was all plain sailing. His impression was that the tide was running perceptibly more in the direction of greater restriction than of greater freedom.

On television the allocation of independent television franchises, he said: "The methods adopted and the decisions taken represent an arbitrary proceeding the like of which we have not seen for many a long day and I hope never will be allowed to occur again."

The impact of "this great lottery", the great upheaval in terms of the programmes screened on independent television, was showing itself to be minimal, he said. Where administrative and financial

considerations were paramount, subsequent events had in several instances worked out differently from those envisaged.

On satellite broadcasting, Lord Windlesham said five more television channels might sound a great deal, but they represented only the beginning. Two channels have been allocated to the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority has expressed interest in the three others. But he asked whether it was realistic to expect the independent companies to try to finance one or more of the new channels.

He said he favoured a system of open tender, "getting right away from the rather squalid scramble to assemble a list of imposing looking names that may find favour with the members of a public authority dispensing patronage."

Some form of regulation would be needed to maintain standards, but he would rather see the detailed regulations added after the new regulations had been encouraged to take root, rather than devising restrictions and controls in advance.

He thought the Department of Industry should be authorized to seek tenders for the remaining three DBS [direct broadcasting by satellite] channels. It had the necessary technical knowledge to determine the shape and form of the tenders and of the relative merits of any bids that might result.

CEGB to close plutonium loophole

By Donald McIntyre, Labour Correspondent

The Central Electricity Generating Board is re-negotiating a contract with the Department of Energy to ensure that it maintains full control of plutonium which might be used by the United States for its nuclear weapons programme.

Mr Clyn England, the board's chairman, has privately disclosed to union leaders and staff that the agreement covering plutonium waste from the Dungeness B station is being renegotiated to close the only route by which British plutonium could leave the board's control.

At the same time, Mr England has pledged both to the unions and in a statement to staff at the Sizewell A power station, that the board will maintain a clear "separation between military and civilian use" of any plutonium, of which it may dispose.

Mr England's unprecedented assurance comes at a time of mounting pressure on the board from unions in the power supply industry to ensure that British-sourced plutonium is not exported to the United States to assist President Reagan's expanding nuclear missile programme.

The Electrical Power Engineers' Association said at a meeting that it might withdraw support for the nuclear power station programme in this country if nuclear fuel from Britain was so used.

The E.P.E.A.'s concern followed Foreign Office confirmation of preliminary discussions between the British and United States governments on the possible export of plutonium.

The renegotiation arises from a deal made during the Wilson Labour administration when the Anglesey Aluminium smelter was established. Mr England explained in his statement that in order to make the use of electricity more attractive at the smelter, the CEGB agreed that valuable plutonium from Dungeness B could be transferred to the Department of Energy, one of the partners in setting up smelter. The clause has not hitherto been implemented because Dungeness B has not yet come on stream.

Mr England said that the arrangement had been made for "commercial reasons which seemed good at the time". But he added: "I am satisfied this needs action by the board, and action will be taken. The contract will be changed in a way that will restore to the board total control of the plutonium which has been produced. That will put this unsatisfactory situation right."

"I am not aware of any other route by which plutonium can leave the board's control. I believe we can maintain this separation between civil and military uses."



One of the 150 handicapped children from London who were taken by 75 London taxi drivers for a day trip to Boulogne yesterday. P and O Ferries provided free passage from Dover for the children, taxis, drivers and helpers and Boulogne Chamber of Commerce organized a tour of the town and a small gift for each child.

MPs seek changes in college spending

By Lucy Hodges

The control of spending on higher education should be better coordinated, with one or more bodies being set up to oversee the whole area, the Public Accounts Committee recommended yesterday.

In its eleventh report the committee said it was encouraged to hear that the steps taken in the universities were proving remarkably effective in controlling costs, and it welcomed the structure being developed in the local authority sector to cut spending.

"We think it unfortunate, however, that these improvements have been delayed until many of the difficult decisions about closing or reducing facilities at universities have already been taken or are about to be taken," the report said.

It noted that 18.2 per cent more students were enrolled at polytechnics this academic year compared with last (in universities there was a 4 per cent drop).

The report added: "We consider that the new arrangements for local authority higher education should be developed in conjunction with the University Grants Committee and representatives of higher education institutions so as to provide the means of allocating the total funds available for higher education to the best possible advantage."

At the same time the MPs welcomed the steps being taken to assess the needs of each university individually in the light of national requirements. "We trust that the University Grants Committee will consider allowing a university to adjust to the needs of its own area of activity over a longer period than the three years objective if it can show in its own

case that this would be more cost-effective", they added.

On the question of staff redundancies, which are expected to cost £100m, the committee said it accepted that academic freedom must be protected by security against arbitrary dismissal, but it thought that the protection of academic freedom should be distinguished from immunity from genuine redundancy.

The other area examined by the MPs was overspending by voluntary aided schools of £2.8m in 1980-81. Those schools could claim for repairs without prior approval from the Department of Education and Science.

Procedures have now been tightened up and the department is now insisting that all repairs and minor capital work costing more than £100 should be referred to it first, for approval. The committee was concerned that this sum might be too low and recommended that it be reviewed at an early date.

The procedures of giving capital grants to such schools is also being changed and the department will henceforth be marking an allocation for them.

In an attempt to halt the decline in its numbers, overseas students and encourage others to apply to study, Leeds University is to award scholarships worth £1,000 a year to offset the full cost fees which, because of government policy, overseas students are now charged. Up to 70 scholarships will be awarded from October this year and about 100 from October next year (Ronald Kishaw writes).

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University relents on staff jobs

From Jonathan Wills, Aberdeen

Aberdeen University teachers have won their fight against compulsory redundancies but the 487-year-old university still faces long-term decline because of government cuts.

The university court yesterday (Wednesday) informed the faculty, the body responsible for academic standards, that it had reversed its previous decision and that no compulsory redundancy notices would be issued this year.

In March, the court said that 57 academic staff would have to be made redundant for the university to balance its accounts. About 100 staff have already agreed to go voluntarily, in addition to 200 technical and administrative posts which were not filled when they became vacant.

The court's change of mind marks a significant victory for the Aberdeen Association of University Teachers. The union has called in a firm of accountants to prove that the university's deficit for 1982/3 would be only £150,000 out of a total budget of about £30m, and that compulsory redundancies were therefore unnecessary.

It is still possible that more than twenty academics will have to go in 1983/4.

Dr Jurgen Thomanack, the local secretary of the union, and a lecturer in the German department, said yesterday that in spite of the resolution of the recent dispute over redundancies between the court and the faculty, the university was still depressed and demoralised.

Dr Thomanack said the union had had to sacrifice in an attempt to prevent the decline in Aberdeen's standards of excellence in teaching and research. Unfortunately, many of the best and most experienced teachers had accepted redundancy. The task of those who were left would be much harder.

Mr Thomas Skinner, the university secretary, was equally pessimistic about the future and agreed by the Government's attitude. He said that when the university made the savings requested by the Government just imposed further economies. A cut of 23 per cent in grant had been imposed at short notice in a university that less than two years ago had been actively encouraged to double the number of its students.

Professor A. Logie Walker, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, said Aberdeen University made a greater proportion of contribution to the National Health Service than any other, yet it faced much bigger cuts than other medical schools in Scotland.

Firebombs wreck 24 buses

A firebomb attack on a bus in Armagh left 24 buses burnt out in Northern Ireland early yesterday (Craig Seaton writes from Belfast).

Five masked and armed men held up two security guards at the Ulsterbus depot and planted incendiary devices in the vehicles, which were worth more than £800,000.

Before they escaped the men left a car across the entrance and police and firemen had to wait to find out if it contained a bomb. By the time the car was given the buses had been burning for nearly an hour.

Only for buses were left undamaged. The several thousand schoolchildren and many workers left without transport. Yesterday the company said the wrecked vehicles would be replaced by the weekend.

Fire rescue

Mr Robert Stonehouse, aged 43, of Beacon Park Road, Plymouth, Devon, saved five young children yesterday when fire engulfed a neighbour's home.

He caught them as their parents, Mr and Mrs Clifford Escott, dropped them from a window. Firemen later rescued Mr and Mrs Escott.

Weapons charge

Timothy Mills, aged 42, of Black Notley, Braintree, Essex, arrested at the Houses of Parliament on Monday, was charged yesterday with four offences of possessing offensive weapons and one of trespass.

Centre opened

The Duke of Gloucester officially opened the £3m South Lakeland Leisure Centre, in Kendal, yesterday. During his tour of the centre, he tested the swimming pool for warmth and tried a bicycle in the fitness unit.

Council strike

More than 300 manual workers employed by Peterborough city council went on strike yesterday in protest at the use of private contractors for house painting and central heating maintenance.

Pools win

A group of 13 women from Nottingham and a woman from Leicester have shared a football pools win of £1,037,592. The Nottingham group won £534,364. The woman from Leicester, who won £503,328, preferred to remain anonymous.

Surgeons' show

The Royal College of Surgeons is trying to counter the impact on research of a £500,000 grant cut by holding an open week. Groups from industry, political and public life will be shown the latest surgical developments.

Porton protest

Fines totalling £560 were imposed by magistrates at Salisbury, Wiltshire, on 24 people arrested on Saturday during an animal rights demonstration at the chemical defence establishment, Porton, Down. Five other people were bailed to appear later.

Court sold

Mr David Jay, a businessman, aged 32, has bought the magistrates' court in Linsdale, Bedfordshire, where the great train robbers first appeared after their capture. He paid £48,000 and plans to convert it into a home.

Late delivery

An airmail letter arrived in Bristol yesterday from Wyoming in the United States. It had been posted in 1948.

Correction

The prediction of private houses to be started this year should be 135,000, not 15,000, as stated on April 21.

Riots 'were limited by community policing'

From Arthur Osman, Birmingham

Sir Philip Knights, Chief Constable of the West Midlands, said yesterday that the potential extent of last summer's riots was much reduced in the region largely because of his force's policy of close involvement with the community.

In his annual report he said: "The wisdom of our community relations programme was clearly indicated in that our liaison structures were tried and tested and found not to be wanting. It must be acknowledged yet again that to maintain an efficient police response the cooperation of the community is essential."

However, despite the indication that the force was on the right lines, "it must be

recognized that there are sections of the community, particularly among its younger members, where further effort is still needed."

The force had 60 coloured police officers on its establishment of 6,684, which was a higher proportion than any other in the country.

Sir Philip said that one of this year's big tasks was to see what extent the force could push forward the recommendations of the Scarman report dealing with the recruitment of officers from ethnic minorities, training, supervision and monitoring methods of policing, and more important, consultation and accountability.

A total of 188,230 crimes were recorded during the

year, an increase of 22,199, or 13.7 per cent over 1980. Mugging offences (including robberies) increased by 22.4 per cent after an 18 per cent increase in 1980. Domestic burglaries increased by 20 per cent.

Public confidence in the police would soon be eroded if their direction and control became a political issue, Mr Ronald Gregory, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, said in his annual report, published yesterday (the Press Association reports).

"Impartial enforcement of the law is of little consequence to the underprivileged if their fears or grievances are ignored, and if the police are the symbol of

the Establishment who come under attack," he said.

The police must not be partisan. They must maintain a balance and must ensure that minorities can demonstrate and canvas support.

They must protect the rights of workers in conflict with employers, and support those against generally accepted policies. "Equally, they must protect those who take an opposite view and do not wish to become involved," Mr Gregory said.

Crimes reported in West Yorkshire totalled nearly 139,000 last year, an increase of 8.6 per cent on the previous year. The most disturbing rise, the chief constable said, was in crimes of violence.

At the same time the MPs welcomed the steps being taken to assess the needs of each university individually in the light of national requirements. "We trust that the University Grants Committee will consider allowing a university to adjust to the needs of its own area of activity over a longer period than the three years objective if it can show in its own

case that this would be more cost-effective", they added.

On the question of staff redundancies, which are expected to cost £100m, the committee said it accepted that academic freedom must be protected by security against arbitrary dismissal, but it thought that the protection of academic freedom should be distinguished from immunity from genuine redundancy.

The other area examined by the MPs was overspending by voluntary aided schools of £2.8m in 1980-81. Those schools could claim for repairs without prior approval from the Department of Education and Science.

Procedures have now been tightened up and the department is now insisting that all repairs and minor capital work costing more than £100 should be referred to it first, for approval. The committee was concerned that this sum might be too low and recommended that it be reviewed at an early date.

The procedures of giving capital grants to such schools is also being changed and the department will henceforth be marking an allocation for them.

In an attempt to halt the decline in its numbers, overseas students and encourage others to apply to study, Leeds University is to award scholarships worth £1,000 a year to offset the full cost fees which, because of government policy, overseas students are now charged. Up to 70 scholarships will be awarded from October this year and about 100 from October next year (Ronald Kishaw writes).

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Criticism over picture of corpse

It was improper of a hospital periodical to publish a coloured photograph of a tattooed corpse without obscuring the dead man's features, the Press Council found today.

The council upheld a complaint of improper publication of a photograph of a naked male body made against *Hospital Doctor* by Mr Michael Webb, of 31 Lyteton Court, Hampstead Garden Suburb.

Hospital Doctor Call, a controlled-circulation tabloid for doctors working in hospitals, printed a full-length photograph of a naked man, the caption said, who collapsed and died in London. When his clothes were removed he was seen to be tattooed. The illustrations must have taken hundreds of hours.

Mr Webb complained to the Press Council that the picture was exhibited for voyeuristic interest, showing the man's head and giving other details made him easily identifiable; and the period-

ical compounded a breach of medical confidence, and seemed indifferent to relatives' potential distress.

Mr David Britton, the editor, told him the photograph and caption material came from a teaching hospital where they had been used as a teaching aid for some years. The doctor in charge there always obtained permission before releasing a photograph for use. Total body tattooing was unusual and publishing the picture was useful for doctors, showing something they could encounter. Mr Britton agreed there was no need to show the head and because of Mr Webb's complaint he would ensure confidentiality in future.

The Press Council's adjudication was:

In the Press Council's view the publication was improper without the obliteration of the dead man's features. The Press Council welcomes the editor's subsequent agreement that showing the deceased's features added nothing to the value of the picture.

The complaint against *Hospital Doctor* Call is upheld.

Although a reporter's notes did not bear out some quotations used in a daily newspaper story the Press Council said it was not satisfied that the report did not accurately reflect what was said.

The Council did not uphold a complaint by Mr John Holt, of Packington Square, Islington, North London, that having published quotes attributed to him which he had not said, the editor failed to publish an apology and retraction.

Mr Parrack said the reporter, Mr Patrick Hill, took no notes during the interview but wrote them immediately on leaving.

The Press Council's adjudication was:

The Press Council doubts whether all the quotations in the story directly reproduced actual words used by the complainant. Some of them were not borne out by the reporter's transcript of his notes. However, the complainant has not satisfied the Press Council that the article did not accurately report the burden or substance of what the complainant said.

The complaint against *The Sun* is therefore, not upheld.

Politicians in Ulster must work together

ULSTER

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, expressed the hope in the Commons that Northern Ireland politicians on both sides of the community would see the Government's proposals for devolved government of the province for what they were — a chance to govern themselves responsibly and in the interests of everybody.

Opening a debate on the proposals in the White Paper Northern Ireland: A Framework for Devolution, Mr Prior said outlined the steps the Government proposed to take for the resumption of devolved government in Northern Ireland after eight years of direct rule.

The White Paper recognised the deep-seated and intractable nature of the divisions in Northern Ireland and made no exaggerated claims for the future.

There had been some improvement in the last few months in the security position, which was greatly to the credit of the security forces. But there was a continuing and determined effort by the Provisional IRA to thwart all efforts towards peace and stability.

There had been a sharp deterioration in the economic situation. The image of Northern Ireland as a violent community was a grave disservice.

The Government had made plain that the views of the people of Northern Ireland on whether or not to remain part of the United Kingdom would be respected. A united Ireland was a legitimate political objective if pursued peacefully and those who aspired to it were properly entitled to full participation in public life.

But given the views of the majority of the Northern Ireland people on this issue constructive debate about the administration of Northern Ireland must take place in a United Kingdom setting.

He hoped none of the politicians in Northern Ireland would miss the opportunity the proposals afforded simply because they imagined that the future constitutional position of Northern Ireland which was the core of political division in the province, was up for negotiation between the two sovereign governments in London and Dublin. It was not.

Northern Ireland's constitutional future was, and would remain, a matter for the people of Northern Ireland, for her Majesty's Government, and for this Parliament. It would be folly for anyone to think otherwise.

There were a few in Northern Ireland who would seek to draw comparisons with themselves and the Falkland Islands.

We hope and pray (he said) that bloodshed can be avoided in the South Atlantic, but much blood had been spilled by our soldiers, the security forces and the police in Northern Ireland in their gallant fight against terror-

ists and murderers. We do not tire of our responsibilities; we have not shirked them. In this week of crisis we seek a new initiative.

We have suffered losses in life, of resources (he said), in the cause of defending our people. The people of Great Britain are wholly steadfast in their resolution to support the campaign against terrorism. They ask in return that the people of Ulster should resolve to seek solutions to their own problems. In this all politicians can help. That much is expected and, I think, justly expected.

The House was being asked to make a special provision for Northern Ireland in return for greater harmony. Parliament's consent to transfer of devolved powers would not be sought until widespread agreement had been reached between the Ulster communities.

Such an agreement (he said) is a prize of great value which would contribute greatly to the peace and prosperity of Northern Ireland.

The present proposals were different from those which had gone before. He was deliberately not suggesting what form a devolved government should take.

Leaders of both sides of the community in Ulster have criticized (he continued) because they have not been given what they wanted. Yet in no way could they have everything they want.

Positions are too far apart for that, as what they have been saying clearly illustrates.

Agreed solutions now, before there was an assembly and before politicians had had chance to sit down and work together were simply not on. But doing nothing was not right, either.

We have attempted in this situation (he continued) to narrow some of the disagreements and to devise proposals which would allow them progressively to be narrowed further. That seems to us a way ahead — steadily to persevere along what I fully recognize will be a difficult path.

Once elected, it would be for the assembly to frame devolution proposals, but the assembly would have other vitally important functions pending devolution.

During this phase direct rule would continue but the assembly would be able to scrutinize the work of the Northern Ireland departments and advise on proposed legislation for Northern Ireland currently enacted by order-in-council. Another key feature would be committees, corresponding to each of the Northern Ireland departments.

In the very long run he would hope that matters concerning law and order could be transferred to the assembly. In the short run it would be appropriate to have discussions between the Secretary of State and representatives of the parties to see what informal arrangements could be made to try to create a liaison between the assembly on the one hand and the Secretary of State

on the other, on security matters.

He wanted to make it plain that responsibility for security rested with the Secretary of State. Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, Off UU): Is it the case that under his proposals the assembly will have no power to debate security?

Mr Prior: Yes, it is. The Rev Ian Paisley (North Antrim, Dem U): Each local authority in Northern Ireland has security commitments. It is a bit of a farce that local councillors can meet police and Army chiefs and discuss matters that concern the right to live and yet the assembly would be denied this important task and responsibility.

Mr Prior: This is a matter for discussion as to what role the assembly could have. It is the firm view of the Government that matters of law and order must remain with the Secretary of State, who is responsible to this House, at any rate for a period of time.

The Government would be prepared to discuss what other arrangements could be made to give to a committee of the assembly or the leaders of the parties on the assembly access to the Secretary of State to discuss matters concerning security. It is in that way that we could draw the Assembly and the Secretary of State closer together.

Thus from the outset an elected Northern Ireland assembly would, for the first time in eight years, directly influence the decisions made by the Government on security matters.

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Prior: New initiative

Concanannon: Misgivings

Ireland administration should be composed. Appointments would be made by the Secretary of State and changes could be made after consultation with the parties.

His proposals did not end direct rule but had been described by others as a do-it-yourself devolution kit. They offered the people of Northern Ireland the opportunity to come to terms with the realities of their situation. That opportunity should be taken.

Mr Dennis Concanannon, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland (Monaghan, Lab) said the Opposition supported the general concept of the proposals but there were omissions and defects. Despite these misgivings, they would not be pressing for a decision.

The Opposition believed any proposals should be based on a direct rule was regarded by all as only a second best and should be viewed as a stepping off stone to other areas.

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Unnecessary cruelty in prisons

HOUSE OF LORDS

Much of the cruelty in prisons was palpably unnecessary, the Earl of Longford (Lab) said when opening a short debate on prisons. The Home Secretary (Mr William Whitelaw) had said if there were no significant reduction in the prison population, he would take legislative action. The Earl of Longford declared: "I call on him, as a man of honour, to honour that commitment."

A prisoner should have the right, he said, to have his case heard by an independent tribunal within five years of his arrest and after five years he could apply for such a tribunal which might or might not be immediately granted him. He was not dogmatic about the 10-year-of-five-year figures, but the principle was irrevocable.

So much of the cruelty was palpably unnecessary. It did not spring from the inhumanity of individuals in the prison service, but from the blameworthy decisions reached by ministers and judges were frequently cruel but they were made by public-spirited men acting in what they thought was the national interest.

Lord Avebury (L) said if remission was increased, the courts might tend to counter the effects by giving longer sentences. That was why a general reduction in the maximum length of sentences should be considered by the Government.

Lady Farnham (C) said it should be beyond the wit of men to have a central register of empty buildings to be used for hostels, secure units or prisons. People should be encouraged to have imagination and creativity, and use buildings already there instead of spending money on new buildings.

Lord Eversham-Morgan (Lab), for the Opposition, said the overcrowding crisis was so menacing that it demanded people's instant and best efforts to combat it. He said that a crusading campaign relentlessly pursued to success. He pleaded for the closest monitoring by the Lord Chancellor's Department to ensure that the pattern of sentencing was constantly kept under scrutiny.

Lord Hunt (SDP) said that nothing would alter the situation so much as to not only with regard to prisons but also to incidence of crime, except the intervention of Parliament to shift the emphasis effectively from imprisonment towards containment and rehabilitation in the community. The Criminal Justice Bill did little to reduce the prison population.

There was something to be said for giving executive release powers to the Home Secretary as a temporary emergency measure, but granting amnesty to prisoners in the last part of their sentence in time of crisis. Composite sentences would have several advantages in reducing the prison population, and making enormous savings on the cost of keeping prisoners inside prison buildings and increased security.

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, said that two criticisms had been made of judges — a

general criticism that they were passing sentences which were too long, and a specific criticism that they vetoed a liberal proposal of the Home Secretary on penal reform or else threatened to retaliate if it became law. They were both completely unfounded.

The judges had been consulted on the proposal of dividing every sentence of three years or under into three parts — imprisonment, supervised release and probation. This placed the judges in a dilemma when passing a longish sentence in order to protect the public.

Was he to fail in his duty to the public in passing a sentence which would be divided into three or to fail his duty to Parliament in passing a sentence which would nullify the three thirds rule?

There must be some form of discretion in non-application by the trial judge or some parole consideration interposed between the passing of sentence and release of the prisoner.

Please do not blame the judges (he said). The fault lies in successive Governments who have failed to spend any money on prisons year after year after year. It is not the fault of the judges.

Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge (SDP) said Parliament should put a ceiling on the prison population and instruct the Home Office to make an automatic reduction of all sentences to end in the current year to bring the population down to the authorized figure.

Lord Elton, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said, the Government believed there was scope for prison population to continue to protect the public.

In the last six months of 1980, the average length of sentence imposed on males of 17 and over by magistrates was one or two weeks shorter than for the same period a year earlier and average sentences imposed by Crown Courts fell by two months for the equivalent period. Shorter sentences were not necessarily in all cases, but not necessarily in all.

An automatic reduction in prison lengths would impose a rigidity which was misguided in principle and might have counter-productive in practice.

Under the Criminal Justice Bill, the Government has power to reduce the minimum qualifying period for parole by statutory instrument, subject to parliamentary approval.

The Government would not enter into any commitment to present to exercise the power, but would keep the question under review, so that if it was decided it was justified and practicable to exercise the new power, it would enable them to do so without having to wait for another Bill to come before Parliament.

The debate concluded.

Parliament today
Commons (2.30). Questions: Northern Ireland; Prime Minister. Debate on the Falkland Islands. Lord Advocate's motion of Justice Bill, report. Debate on EEC agricultural trade policy.

here at any time. It would take out 4,000 out of the prison population.

There were suggestions of amnesty for those in prison — for drunkenness, prostitution, fine default or sleeping rough, and also for those wrongly convicted. He had yet to find anyone who had seen the Rough Justice film on television recently who did not agree that those three people serving years and still in prison were obviously innocent.

He had every sympathy with prisoners in these conditions, with prison officers who were pretty well reduced by the lack of resources to turnkeys and with prison governors who, having to choose between denying prisoners their rights and having difficulties in finding anyone who had seen the Rough Justice film on television recently who did not agree that those three people serving years and still in prison were obviously innocent.

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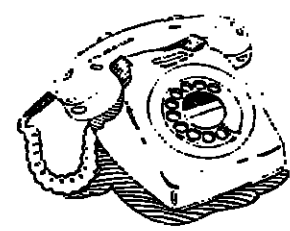
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FALKLANDS CRISIS

UN seen as last hope of saving Argentina's face

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York, April 28

The furor caused by the routine appeal for aid in the Falklands conflict, made by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, has left officials at the world organization vexed, but not panicked by the height of emotions inspired by the conflict.

British and United Nations officials are calling the episode, which has seen Britain forced to issue a statement implying that the Secretary-General was perhaps too fair and even-handed in his call for peace, a "tempest in a teapot".

The sequence of events shows that the British Government and the United Nations share the same objective, but not the same approach, and that the incident was coloured by mainly political considerations.

On Monday, after a day of agonizing over the proper response to give to the recapture of South Georgia, Señor Pérez de Cuellar issued a brief statement appealing to both Britain and Argentina to comply with Security Council Resolution 502.

He also said that the events in South Georgia served to illustrate the urgent need to halt the escalation of the conflict, a statement which could be interpreted as an attempt by the Secretary-General to limit Britain's military option.

Something that Argentina has been trying to do without much success.

The initial British response to the Pérez de Cuellar appeal indicated nothing amiss. A spokesman for the British



Señor Pérez de Cuellar. Took the point

mission said that the appeal was "impartial, neutral and an action to be expected from the Secretary-General". That evening Sir Anthony Parsons, the British representative at the United Nations, met with Señor Pérez de Cuellar, but British displeasure with the contents of the appeal was not yet publicly voiced.

It was only after a boisterous debate in the House of Commons with Labour MPs demanding that the Government respond to the appeal, that Britain felt compelled to issue publicly its reservation to the Secretary-General's statement.

Sir Anthony said, in a statement issued through his spokesman, that his Government could not accept the implication made by the Secretary-General that Britain had failed to comply with Resolution 502. He

ended the statement by observing that the Secretary-General had "taken my point". Which has led to speculation that Señor Pérez de Cuellar apologized for his insensitivity, a point which has been denied both by the United Nations and by British spokesmen.

Sources say that the Secretary-General had decided against berating Argentina and confirming Britain's right under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter to self-defence, in anticipation that the problem may again land in the United Nations lap and he may be called upon to offer services as peace-maker.

United Nations officials say that the Secretary-General has no magic formula that would quell the atmosphere of confrontation and settle the underlying issues of the dispute. He did believe, however, that the United Nations offered the best way for both Governments to save face, particularly for Argentina, which is felt to be more in need of a graceful way out of the situation.

Because of the belief that Argentina is in a more delicate situation than Britain, the United Nations could be debated, the Secretary-General has attempted to be as even-handed as possible. This emphasis on the need for fairness has been heightened by the expectation that the United States will shift in the direction of Britain. It is felt that the United Nations will then be the only resort left for Argentina if it is to seek a peaceful settlement.

No mincing of words by Hurd

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg, April 28

There must be no doubt that Britain has the will and ability to stand by its commitments and to use "minimal force if necessary" to protect its rights, Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told the Council of Europe in Strasbourg today.

Reporting to the Council on the Falklands issue, Mr Hurd made it quite clear that while Britain was prepared to negotiate, it rejected any idea that it had started hostilities "since Argentina did that some weeks ago".

The recapture of South Georgia "was intended to show beyond any doubt that Britain cannot meekly acquiesce in the seizure of British territory and the colonization, for that is the accurate work, of British subjects".

Mr Hurd did not mince his words. The Argentine takeover of the Falklands was, he said, an invasion of a peaceable and democratic people by a powerful neighbour whose Government is characterized by its contempt for democratic institutions and human rights. All the indications were that Argentina intended to incorporate the Falkland Islands as its integral part without any pretence at consensus or persuasion.

Mr Hurd went out of his way to try to emphasize that Britain was not the aggressor. "History will bear this out when the records are published", he said. The tireless and courageous efforts of Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, were continuing. But Britain was determined to show that it was ready to assert its rights.

There was a great deal of space for negotiations, he went on, but there could not be any negotiations with Britain while Argentine troops were still in the Falklands. Once they left, it would be possible to discuss a wide range of things.

Tomorrow, the Council is due to debate a recommendation from its political affairs committee expressing solidarity with Britain's declared aim of achieving a peaceful and fair solution and offering sympathy to the islanders.

An astonished civil servant at the helm

From John Witherow, with the task force in the South Atlantic, April 28

Rear-Admiral John "Sandy" Woodward, the commander of the task force, said today that he did not view himself as "the hawk-eyed, sharp-nosed hard military man, leading a battle fleet into the annals of history".

The admiral, who earlier this week spoke of the South Georgia operation as the appetiser for the heavy punch of the Falklands, was more reserved when he briefed the task force press corps aboard Hermes today.

His earlier remarks had provoked some criticism from a small number of MPs. "I am very astonished to find myself in this position. I am an ordinary person who lives in South West London, in suburbia", Rear-Admiral Woodward said.

"I have been a virtual civil servant for the past three years, commuting into London every day".

The task force could force a long and bloody campaign, he added. "I become very emotional talking about it. It would be with great reluctance that I would put anybody in the front line unless I am prepared to go there myself. I view every person, and every ship, every aircraft and every submarine, because I know so many of them—as individuals".

He said that there was no simple, short, quick military solution to re-establishing British administration on the Falklands while the Argentine resistance resisted. "If it is a matter of shooting as well it will be a long haul. It's one we can do. But it's one we would rather not do for all the good reasons that nobody wants a long and bloody campaign. I am not in any doubt that unless people say

'let's stop' it will be a long and bloody campaign, and in my mind it's absolutely fundamental to try to avoid it."

He did not think it was easy for the Argentines. They had a lot of old equipment. He did not see the air force, naval ships or submarines posing a very real threat.

"Our task force is actually a pretty powerful one. And it must be a pretty daunting prospect to any of the Argentines. I think that the greatest danger is if they can manage to put all of their forces together, and that is terribly difficult to do."

Rear-Admiral Woodward said he was conscious of being responsible for the task force and its 15,000 officers and men. "We are getting extremely close to the front line and this is a dangerous time. There has to be a political wish to go on negotiating and that will entail our waiting in a ready posture, as ready as we can be."

He hoped to be allowed to restrain the Argentines from further reinforcing the islands, "because that would be military sense whether it is politically feasible or not. So long as I keep people back home well informed of the military situation I can expect them to arrive at the right, overall answer, even if it might not represent my own personal ideas."

He said that he would be very depressed if he did not think that there was still time for a diplomatic settlement.

Newspaper reports in Britain that he had been given orders allowing landings anywhere on the Falklands except Port Stanley were "patently untrue", the admiral said.

Island teachers defy invaders

By Philip Venning of "The Times Educational Supplement"

Teachers of the Falkland Islands were the only group of public employees to defy the Argentine military government after the invasion according to the headmaster of the Port Stanley junior school.

Mr John Peatfield, who left the islands last week, says that the teachers refused an order to reopen the schools, declined to accept Argentine salaries, and taught pupils voluntarily in their own homes as a protest.

In an exclusive interview in tomorrow's issue of *The Times Educational Supplement*, Mr Peatfield and his wife, Anne, who was also a teacher at the school, reveal that immediately after the invasion Captain Barry Hussey, an Argentine naval officer, was put in charge of the islands' education system. He asked them to reopen the schools at once, and cooperate with the Argentine authorities until a new Argentine curriculum could be introduced.

After a meeting the teachers unanimously agreed not to collaborate, in spite of a warning to take over their jobs if necessary.

The Peatfields say that they did not wish to give the Argentines any opportunity for propaganda. In addition, a majority of children had left Port Stanley, because the two schools, a primary and a



John and Anne Peatfield: Refused Argentine order to reopen schools

secondary, were close to a military camp and therefore a possible target.

When it became clear they would not change their minds, the Peatfields say, the academic year was formally suspended. Both schools are now being used to house troops and guard dogs.

Meanwhile, the teachers began holding voluntary classes in their own homes for the handful of children that remained in Port Stanley. They were given homework to do, and introduced

The ambivalence in the Labour Party's attitude to the Falklands crisis, especially with regard to the use of force, has been implicit from the moment the crisis enveloped the House of Commons. Shadow ministers, however, have seldom admitted its presence even to themselves.

A number of them were openly scornful of Mr Eric Heffer's early Shadow Cabinet interventions on the Falklands crisis. The point he made was that, while not opposed to the task force, he was opposed to its use to recapture the islands.

One of Mr Heffer's senior colleagues later derided such dissent as naive, innocent and laughable. But Mr Michael Foot's speech to the Commons, in the recess debate on April 14, dispelled speculation that Mr Heffer was deliberately isolating himself from the Labour front bench.

In spite of the widespread view that the Labour leader's speech showed remarkable support for the Government,

the seeds of opposition were undoubtedly sown. Mr Foot said then, for example: "We must go on and on, again and again, seeking a peaceful method of settling this dispute. When Mr Foot sat down, Mr Heffer grinned at the press gallery above the chamber."

Mr Foot has effectively bounced the Shadow Cabinet behind his own view — then tacit, now almost explicit — that while it was correct to send the task force to bolster negotiation, he would not favour its use in an outright conflict.

The difference between that position and the early statements that there could be no "blank cheque" for the use of force is one of degree. No one would have expected a blank cheque for extreme military action but the use of limited force to force further diplomatic concessions from Argentina would not fall within the terms of a blank cheque.

Yesterday's National Executive Committee resolution

was significantly, sponsored by Mr Foot, and Mr Denis Healey. It said: "In view of the further armed exchange between Argentine and British forces which has taken place over South Georgia island, it is imperative that the escalation of the situation be halted."

Meanwhile, it had gone largely unnoticed that Mr Foot was not the only one trying to bounce his colleagues. Dame Judith Hart, chairman of the Labour Party and of its national executive committee last week told the Parliamentary Labour Party meeting that party policy was set out in a Commons motion which demanded an immediate cessation of hostilities.

But in an intervention which delighted many Labour MPs, the indefatigable Mr Jeffrey Rooker, MP for Birmingham, Perry Barr, pointed out to Dame Judith that party policy, as stated in the 1980 draft manifesto, and a socialist foreign policy paper, published last Sep-

tember, went much further than this. Mr Rooker said that the draft manifesto (later rejected by the party conference) stated: "We uphold the rights of all peoples and nations to self-determination... We reaffirm our commitment that under no circumstances will the inhabitants of the Falkland Islands be handed over to any Argentinian (sic) regime which violates human and civil rights."

The same sentiment was expressed in the discussion paper which added: "Meanwhile, the rights of the Falkland Islanders to self-determination must be upheld."

Mr Rooker was also one of the sponsors of this week's Commons motion which, with irony, quoted the words of Mr Wedgwood Benn last month, in a lecture of Marxism, when he said: "There is clearly an inherent right to take up arms against tyranny or dictatorship, to establish or uphold democracy, on exactly the same

basis, and for the same reasons, that the nation will respond to a call to arms to defeat a foreign invasion, or repel those who have successfully occupied a part of our territory."

The MP commented: "We are giving Tony the same kind of support he gives to Michael."

The developing collapse of bipartisan support yesterday was accentuated when trade union leaders urged Mrs Thatcher not to engage in further military action (Paul Routledge writes).

In a move that clearly presages a shift of opinion among organized labour and the parliamentary left, the TUC General Council warned of "the dangers of a widening bloody conflict, involving the armed forces and the people of the Falklands".

In a letter to Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, formed common political cause with the Shadow Cabinet in asking for United Nations mediation

Benn quoted against Benn

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Subtle manoeuvres unite Labour front bench



Sitting it out: Argentine soldiers sheltering in a dugout from the Falkland gales. Most of the occupying forces are young, inexperienced conscripts.

Build-up of supplies on islands

From Christopher Thomas, Buenos Aires, April 28

Journalists returning today to Buenos Aires, on military orders, from the crucial southern port of Comodoro Rivadavia, told of a constant day and night airlift of provisions and munitions to the Falklands, in a convoy of Hercules C130 transport aircraft, and at least one converted airliner.

In the event of a blockade the survival of the supply route will be crucial.

As the savage South Atlantic winter draws in, 9,000 young Argentine soldiers are tonight huddled two to a tent in the harsh, bleak countryside of the Falklands.

Already the first snow flurries have fallen, and a biting wind blows across the almost treeless terrain.

Argentine state radio and television today repeated appeals to people to knit sweaters and make socks for the troops, an appeal that suggests they are ill-equipped to cope with the unfamiliar, bitter and rapidly worsening conditions.

The only water-filtration plant on the Falklands is in the hills above Port Stanley.

Weather reports cleared

By Our Foreign Staff

Weather conditions in the South Atlantic have been declassified, apparently after *The Times* report that the Meteorological Office headquarters at Bracknell, which comes under the Ministry of Defence, had been instructed not to disclose any information about conditions around the Falklands.

The ministry yesterday denied that it had given any such instructions. A call to the Meteorological Office produced a satellite reading at 1 pm BST yesterday, which showed a broad band of thick cloud over the Falkland area, suggesting the weather man said, rain, temperatures slightly above freezing, and fresh to moderate north-westerly winds.

The same office had said on Tuesday that the disclosure of such information would be "a breach of security".

Task force ship owned by Chile

By Our Foreign Staff

The Tidepool, a 14,000-ton Royal Fleet Auxiliary tanker sold to Chile, is now helping the British task force. The Defence Ministry confirmed that the ship was being delivered to Chile and was at sea when the Chileans agreed that it could be used to help to refuel the task force.

It is being manned by Royal Navy personnel and a defence Ministry spokesman said: "Delivery has been delayed. He had no knowledge of any Chileans being on board." He also refused to comment on whether RAF aircraft were using Chilean air bases.

Tidepool was part of a £65m package deal with Chile which included the County class light cruiser Norfolk. Four requisitioned Hull trawlers pressed into service by the Royal Navy as minesweepers, have left Portland for the Falklands. The Norfolk, Farnella, Junella and Cordella were fitted with minesweeping gear at Rosyth.

Meanwhile, the British Telecom cable ship Iris, which has been requisitioned by the Ministry of Defence, was having its helicopter deck strengthened in Devonport dockyard before sailing for the South Atlantic.

Navy denial in film dispute

By Our Foreign Staff

The Royal Navy denied yesterday that it had asked ACTT, the film technicians' union, which is in dispute with the Central Office of Information, to lift its blacking-out of film shot by Navy photographers with the Falklands task force (Kenneth Gossling writes).

Radio Rivadavia, the largest radio station in Buenos Aires, telephoned the BBC in London yesterday with questions about the crisis. It carried out an interview with Mr Domingo Valenzuela, programme organizer of the Latin American Service, for broadcast later in the day in a current affairs programme.

Confrontation on roller skates

By Our Foreign Staff

Teams from Britain and Argentina are scheduled for confrontation on the opening of the world rink hockey championships in Lisbon on Saturday.

Argentina holds the world title in this rough-and-tumble sport, similar to ice hockey but played on roller skates and popular especially in Argentina and Chile.

OAS chooses moderation

Costa Méndez plea rejected

From Nicholas Ashford and Mohsin Ali, Washington, April 28

Foreign ministers of the Organization of American States (OAS) voted 17-0 with four abstentions early this morning in favour of a moderately-worded resolution, which was seen as a diplomatic setback for Argentina.

Although the resolution called for Britain to cease hostilities over the Falklands dispute, it did not contain any reference to the demand made by Señor Nicanor Costa Méndez, the Argentine Foreign Minister, at the opening of the OAS meeting on Monday, for the withdrawal of the British fleet from the South Atlantic.

Britain and Argentina were urged to declare an immediate truce. The resolution called for further peace negotiations and — as a Argentina — urged European countries to lift economic and political sanctions imposed on Argentina.

The preamble also stated that Security Council resolution 502 "must be fulfilled". This calls for an Argentine withdrawal from the islands, a lessening of hostilities, and a solution by diplomatic means.

The four countries which abstained were the United States, Trinidad and Tobago, Chile and Colombia. Colombia had submitted its own draft, which simply called for the provisions of resolution 502 to be met.

Those in favour of the OAS resolution were Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecua-

dor, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The final wording was an amended version to a draft submitted yesterday by Peru and Brazil, and supported by Costa Rica and Honduras. It took the foreign ministers 10 hours of debate behind closed doors, during which Señor Costa Méndez tried to win support for a tougher for of words before agreement was reached.

One of the main modifications was the deletion from the earlier draft of an expression of "profound satisfaction" of British Haig, the Secretary of State, for his attempts to find a peaceful solution. The agreed resolution merely took note of the information received about Mr Haig's negotiations.

Several countries, notably Venezuela, were annoyed at the speech given by Mr Haig on Monday in which he blamed Argentina for being the first to use force, and said that the dispute should not be treated within the collective security framework of the 1947 Rio Treaty.

Mr Haig's speech was given a frosty reception but, as one observer noted: "The Argentine Foreign Minister got a standing ovation, but little of real substance. Mr Haig was received with stony silence; but got what he wanted."

British diplomats said they regarded the OAS resolution

as "neutral". They said the organization could have had a damaging effect if it had voted for sanctions against Britain, had not referred to Resolution 502, or had given full-blooded support to Argentina.

British officials were disappointed, however, that the resolution recognized Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the islands, and referred only to the "interests of the islanders", without making any reference to "self-determination".

OAS delegates said they thought Britain had got off lightly, despite numerous condemnations of British actions. The main reason for this, they explained, was the feeling among several countries that Argentina had placed itself in the wrong by using force.

Sources said that Argentina was shocked at a low level of support it received from the meeting.

[New York: Guyana is clearly apprehensive over the possibility of an imminent Venezuelan attack on its territory and has informed officials at the United Nations about its fears (Zoriana Pysariwsky writes).

Mr Norberto Sinclair, Representative from Guyana, yesterday met Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the Secretary-General, and Mr Kamanda wa Kamanda of the Zaire, the Council. It did not seem likely, however, that Guyana would press for a council meeting at present.

Text approves sovereignty claim

Washington, April 28.

The following is the text of the nine-page resolution approved here last night by a special meeting of the Organization of American States on the Falkland crisis.

The twentieth meeting of consultation of foreign ministers resolves:

1. To urge the Government of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to cease immediately the hostilities it is carrying on within the security region established by Article 4 of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocity Assistance and to refrain from any act that could affect inter-American peace and security.

2. To urge the Government of the Republic of Argentina as well as the European Community and other states of coercive measures of an economic and political nature which are prejudicial to the peaceful settlement of the conflict.

3. To urge those Governments to call an immediate truce that will make it possible to resume and develop normally the negotiations aimed at a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

bearing in mind the rights of sovereignty of the Republic of Argentina over the Falklands and the interests of the islanders.

4. To express the willingness of the twentieth meeting of consultation to lead, through whatever means it considers advisable, to the new initiatives being advanced at the regional or world level, with the consent of the parties, which are directed toward a just and peaceful solution of the problem.

5. To take note of the information received about the important negotiations by the Secretary of State of the United States and to express its wishes that they will be an effective contribution to the peaceful settlement of the conflict.

6. To deplore the adoption by members of the European Community and other states of coercive measures of an economic and political nature which are prejudicial to the peaceful settlement of the conflict.

7. To urge those Governments to call an immediate truce that will make it possible to resume and develop normally the negotiations aimed at a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Security Council and are inconsistent with the charters of the United Nations and of the OAS and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

7. To instruct the chairman of the twentieth meeting of consultation to take immediate steps to transmit the contents of operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this resolution to the Government of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of the Republic of Argentina, and to inform them, on behalf of the foreign ministers of this hemisphere, that he is fully confident that this exhortation will be received for the sake of peace in the region and the world.

8. To instruct the chairman of the twentieth meeting of consultation to present this resolution formally to the chairman of the United Nations Security Council.

9. To keep the twentieth meeting of consultation open, especially to oversee faithful compliance with this resolution and to take such additional measures as are deemed necessary to restore and preserve peace and settle the conflict by peaceful means.

U-P.

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Polish steelmen learn to live with martial law

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, April 28

Welcome to the militarized world of the Huta-Warszawa steelworks where workers work, discipline is maintained and absenteeism is little more than a distant memory.

The Huta is a sprawling plant on the outskirts of Warsaw, the unpleasant part where nobody wants to live, and it has had its problems in the past. A Solidarity stronghold, a patchy strike record, a "spot of bother" as the technical director put it, after the declaration of martial law. Now production is roughly on a par with the average for the past five years (a million tonnes of high quality steel a year), productivity has increased by 3.7 per cent, the plant is working at 100 per cent capacity and the order books are full.

How has the plant managed to restore the work motivation of the workers, persuaded them to work overtime and the unpopular "four-day" shift (four days on, one day off, four nights on, one day off)? Does military rule produce economic miracles?

One could have asked the military commissar, a colonel, but he had unfortunately just left the office, nobody knew for how long or where. One could have asked the workers, but unfortunately it was not possible to speak to workers in militarized factories without prior notification.

In fact, military control of factories works like this. The colonel has an office next to the manager and has free access to all files. Because he has no expertise in steel making he makes few decisions but sits in on the weekly board meeting making notes in the corner. He complains about the lack of cleanliness in the factory, the sloppy turnout of the workers, the need for punctuality.

The colonel's three assistants — lieutenant-colonels — have the freedom to roam the plant looking for instances of waste or backsliding, but they rarely visit the shop-floors where uniforms are unpopular. In short, they are a controlling operation to reassure the workers that the management is on its toes and at the same time a symbol of discipline.

Being a militarized factory means that military regulations apply to the workforce. The management can and does order workers to work overtime, can reorganize shifts without consultation.

Under the military regulations, so adequately represented by the roving lieutenant colonels, absence from the workplace ranks as desertion and can thus be punished accordingly (that is, with a jail term or a hefty fine). The technical director says: "We have largely solved the absenteeism problem".

Not all industries of course

Pope puts off trip to Poland Glemp says

Vatican City, April 28 —

The Pope's planned trip to his native Poland in August will be postponed, Archbishop Jozef Glemp, Poland's Roman Catholic Primate, said today.

"I believe that the Pope's trip must be postponed for a little while," he told reporters at St Peter's Square after the Pontiff's weekly audience.

Asked if the trip would take place next year, the archbishop replied: "No, unless the situation (in Poland) calms down".

Vatican sources have said the Pope would not want to give any impression that he accepted the restrictions of martial law by visiting the country while the emergency measure was in force.

Asked whether it was the Pope who decided to put off the trip, Archbishop Glemp said: "This depends not only on us, but also the (Polish) Government and the situation".

The Pope's visit to Poland in 1979 helped set off a nationwide outpouring of nationalist and religious fervour.

He wanted to return to his country in August for the six-hundredth anniversary of the Black Madonna shrine at Czestochowa.

A Polish Government official said today the authorities had no objections to the Pope's planned visit. He refused to comment further. — AP.

Americans lining up for Start Rostow after missile loopholes

By Richard Owen

The Reagan Administration is putting the finishing touches to its position on strategic arms reduction (START), and is intent on avoiding "the errors of previous negotiations", according to Mr Eugene Rostow, Director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA).

Mr Rostow told *The Times* that proposals from the Pentagon, the State Department and ACDA would be put before President Reagan this week. It is understood that Mr Reagan will discuss the final shape of the American position with the Nato allies during May, and will make a formal announcement about START by the time of the Versailles summit in June and the United Nations session on disarmament in New York the same month.



Rostow: in-fighting

SALT II was not ratified by the Senate, but is observed *de facto*.

Mr Rostow argues however that the Soviet Union has been able to exploit loopholes in SALT I and SALT II — including the provision in SALT II for the "modernization and replacement" of nuclear missiles — and has thus gained the edge. Soviet commanders, he suggests, will soon be in a position to "take out our ICBMs with only 25 per cent of theirs".

The resulting loss of nuclear parity has led to doubts in Western Europe about the credibility of the American nuclear guarantee, a development which Mr Rostow describes as "the most dramatic demonstration of the political meaning of nuclear weapons since Cuba in 1962".

The American approach is therefore based on arms reduction rather than limitation — hence the acronym START, replacing SALT —

with the proviso that if the Russians prove unwilling to reduce their arsenal, the Americans will no option but to increase theirs. Mr Rostow remains "quite optimistic" about the prospects, "provided the Soviet Union itself wishes to reach an agreement based on the principle of deterrence". It was not true, he said, that the Administration had dragged its feet over arms control, and was only now responding to public pressure for a nuclear "freeze". The delay had been due to "normal bureaucratic in-fighting", which was now nearing an end, and to the crisis in Poland, which had made it "inappropriate" for Mr Reagan to make an initiative.

Salvador Assembly approves reforms

San Salvador, April 28 —

The rightist-dominated Constituent Assembly has ratified reforms made by the junta, but has solved further changes that would have hurt the middle classes. It has also called for changes to "perfect" the achievements of the previous administration.

The Assembly has adopted a resolution legalizing the actions taken before the March 28 elections under the land redistribution programme and the nationalization of banks and foreign trade. The key reforms sponsored by President Jose Napoleon Duarte to deny public support for the country's guerrillas.

This has apparently shelved the long-delayed second phase of the land reform programme, which would have turned middle-sized estates into peasant cooperatives.

The first phase of the programme hit El Salvador's tiny oligarchy of wealthy landed families by nationalizing holdings of more than 1,250 acres. President Duarte and his centrist Christian

Democratic Party argued that the peasants' belief in the land reform programme would be undermined if it was not extended.

The conservative parties have condemned the land reform and the nationalization of banking and foreign trade during the election campaign. But key members of the United States Congress made continuation of the reforms a condition for continued American aid in the war against the leftist guerrillas.

Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, the assembly's ultra-rightist president, and the other rightist officials of the legislative body have cancelled a session scheduled for this afternoon to debate the selection of a provisional president to succeed Senator Duarte.

The rightists had previously taken steps to trim the presidential powers as insurance in case the opposition of military leaders and the United States caused more moderate right wingers to help to elect Señor Magana. — AP

Berlin rioters out again

Berlin, April 28 — About 200 youths swarmed through Kreuzberg district in the American sector for a second successive night of rioting and looting that left eight police officers injured, 24 rioters arrested, and caused thousands of pounds' worth of damage.

Police said the trouble started late last night when

about 3,000 people demonstrated against Monday's eviction of squatters from a house in the district. The demonstration was largely peaceful, but afterwards several small groups gathered to fight scattered battles with police, loot stores, overturn police and private vehicles and start at least half a dozen fires. — AP

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Bush makes pledge to Taiwan

From David Watts, Singapore, April 28

Mr George Bush, the United States Vice-President, who is to make an unexpected visit to China next month, has obliquely reassured Taiwan that it has nothing to fear from the visit.

Mr Bush told a breakfast meeting of American businessmen on the second day of his visit to Singapore: "The United States will remain faithful to its treaty commitments." His reiteration of the United States position does not augur well for the forthcoming Peking visit at a time when Sino-American relations are at their lowest point since normalization under President Carter in 1979.

China is incensed at American plans to sell \$60m (£33m) worth of military spare parts to Taiwan under a defence commitment. The United States has already declined to supply Taiwan with advanced jet fighter aircraft saying that its defence needs could be met by the present generation of Freedom Fighters which the Air Force operates.

Though Mr Bush's visit is unlikely to produce any important change in attitude by either side, it may ease off what the Americans fear could be a downgrading of Sino-American relations if Mr Bush can convince the Chinese that the sale of spare parts is the minimum the United States can do.

Family seek help to quit Russia

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, April 28

Six Soviet Pentecostals rushed past guards outside the British Embassy last night and urged British diplomats to help them to leave the country. After being escorted out of the embassy, they were arrested.

The six — two men, two women and two children — said they were members of the Balak family and came from Krasnodar in southern Russia. They wanted to emigrate to Britain because they were harassed in the Soviet Union.

They had several times been refused Soviet exit visas and wanted the embassy to intercede on their behalf. They were told that while an application to go to Britain would be considered, British diplomats could not intervene until the family had first obtained exit permits.

The family left one hour later at about 10.00 pm, and were surrounded by 20 KGB security police who bundled them into waiting cars.

Six Pentecostals from Siberia have been in the United States Embassy since June 1978. A seventh, Miss Lydia Vashchenko, went on hunger strike in January to press their demands to emigrate but after being taken to a hospital returned to her native town of Chernogorsk. Yesterday one of her sisters said Miss Vashchenko and 11 brothers and sisters had been beaten.

500 Cubans leave Angola

From a Special Correspondent, Luanda, April 28

A first group of nearly 500 Cuban advisers have left Angola in recent weeks, according to diplomatic sources here. About 400 of them were working for the Angolan Ministry of construction, which had no further use for them.

The move, disclosed by the Cuban Ambassador in Luanda to a Third World diplomat, was prompted by the Angolan Government's inability to find useful work for them and not for any political

reason. The estimated 25,000 Cuban troops and civilian advisers still in Angola are paid in scarce Angolan dollars from Angolan oil earnings.

Many of the 6,500 civilian advisers are reported to be less useful than they were to the Angolan authorities as more Angolans gain experience in running the country.

It is not immediately clear whether other groups of Cubans will also return to Havana in the coming weeks.

Peace protest as Israel violence mars celebration

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, April 28

The thirty-fourth anniversary of Israel's independence was marked today by a further severe outbreak of violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in which at least 12 Palestinians were wounded by bullets fired by Israeli soldiers to quell disturbances.

Five soldiers were also wounded in stone-throwing incidents, the raising of Palestinian flags and the setting up of blazing barricades. The violence was part of a new cycle of events which broke out on Sunday with the final handback of the Sinai to Egypt.

Tensions had also been exacerbated by yesterday's announcement by Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, that a government resolution would be put before the Knesset (parliament) next week to rule out the removal of any Jewish settlements as part of any future peace negotiations with the Arabs.

Today around 800 Jewish members of the left wing Peace Now Movement attempted to demonstrate near the occupied West Bank town of Hebron where Mr Ariel Sharon, the Defence Minister, was speaking at one of the eight new paramilitary outposts inaugurated in the occupied territories as part of the Independence Day celebrations.

The demonstrators, who arrived in a long cavalcade of cars and coaches, were harried by an army roadblock four miles from the ceremony. There they sang Israeli peace songs and raised banners with Hebrew slogans such as: "Peace is better than Greater Israel" and

"Settlement destroys the way to peace".

Several demonstrators managed to penetrate the military cordon and carry their protest to the site of Nahal Telem, the new outpost which was being formally opened by Mr Sharon, the Cabinet's chief architect of settlement expansion in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

One of the Peace Now leaders, Mr Avraham Goldblum, a university science lecturer, said: "There are many Israelis who are now frightened that the Government's settlement policies are leading us straight to a new war. We particularly object to Independence Day being used to promote a policy with which a substantial section of the country does not agree."

Today's demonstration represented something of a revival for the Peace Now movement which has not countered Government building in the West Bank for many months.

The worst outbreak of Arab-Israeli violence was in Nablus where large parts of the town were placed under curfew after clashes in which at least eight people were shot. One of the injured was named locally as Mrs Wisal el-Masri, a pregnant woman teacher, whose condition was described as satisfactory after she had been hit in the arm by a bullet.

An Israeli military spokesman said that in the Gaza Strip four Palestinians were hit when soldiers opened fire to disperse demonstrators in the Jebeliya refugee camp. He said the four soldiers had also been wounded by stones thrown inside the camp. A fifth soldier was hurt during rioting in Hebron.

Syria wonders which way Jordan is going

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, April 28

King Hussein's letter of congratulation to President Mubarak on Egypt's recovery of the remainder of Sinai has raised fears in Syria that Jordan may soon join American-sponsored peace efforts in the Middle East. The king's message prompted leading articles in Damascus newspapers, all of which described Jordan as a "reactionary" regime.

At Beirut, the ruling party's newspaper in Syria, claimed that King Hussein's enthusiasm, as well as that expressed by King Hassan of Morocco in a similar letter to the Egyptian leader, "meant that they have joined the Camp David accords". The Jordanians themselves are of course, placing a quite different interpretation upon their king's message to Cairo.

So far as they are concerned, Jordan is merely welcoming Egypt back into the ranks of those Arab states who feel no diplomatic obligations towards Israel, in the hope that Egypt will now be able to throw her weight behind international Arab efforts to secure a homeland for the Palestinians.

In a speech to the National Consultative Council in Amman, the nearest equivalent to a Jordanian Parliament, King Hussein said: "One of our dearest aspirations is to see the Arab nation, including Egypt, resume its march in unison, so that all Arab territories, first and foremost Jerusalem, will return to the Arabs."

For their part, the Egyptian Government have been

somewhat irritated by Arab efforts to capitalize on the return of Sinai. The Saudis, for instance, having permitted indeed, sometimes encouraged, their neighbours to vilify Egypt for signing the Camp David agreement, are now claiming that the Israeli withdrawal was a result of the "pan-Arab" struggle. This is regarded in Cairo, with considerable justification, as palpable nonsense.

Thus when he replied to King Hussein's message, President Mubarak promised that his country would carry on the "peace process" with Israel and asked Jordan to "join" Egypt in its defence of Palestinian rights. Hence Syria's suspicion that King Hussein may throw in his lot with the Egyptians.

Meanwhile, in Damascus today, the Syrian Government gave a warning that they would use their Sam 6 anti-aircraft missiles in Lebanon if Israel decided to attack the Palestinians again. A statement attributed to an anonymous Government spokesman claimed: "Syrian missiles will hit every Israeli aircraft that flies within their range. This is a firm stand from which Syria will never renege."

The Lebanese were today more involved in the protest strikes that followed the murder of Sheikh Ahmed Assaf, a leading Sunni Muslim cleric. For the first time since the civil war here, Christians and Muslims joined in a general strike in Beirut.

Hurd says EEC must revive Mid-East role

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg, April 28

Europe must not stand aside in the search for a solution in the Middle East, Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told the Council of Europe assembly here today.

He gave a further clear hint that the EEC was on the point of a new Middle East initiative in his speech to the council in his role as president of its Committee of Ministers.

"Fresh ideas are now needed if fresh progress is to be made", he said. "Indeed, without fresh ideas what has already been achieved may be at risk."

He said that only patient negotiation between Israel and the Arab world could produce a settlement, but Europe should be "alert and imaginative in helping our friends in the area, and indeed our friends in the United States, the task of bringing about a just and lasting settlement."

Begin remains firm against Palestine state

Jerusalem, April 28. — Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, today reaffirmed Israel's opposition to self-determination for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Autonomy yes, self-determination no", he said in an Israeli radio interview. "Israel will continue to oppose the creation of a Palestinian state and the granting of self-determination to the Arabs of Judea Samaria (West Bank) and the Gaza, since (self-determination) can only lead to the destruction of the state of Israel."

He said the legitimate right of Palestinians "will be satisfied with the autonomy formula provided in the Camp David agreement". Israel, Egypt and the United States (the three signatories to the Camp David pact) should reach an agreement based solely on the formula, Mr Begin believed.

He had renewed his invitation to Egypt's President Mubarak to visit Jerusalem, in a telephone conversation. "It seems to me that President Mubarak answered my invitation in the affirmative but I cannot be categorical since there was static on the line", Mr Begin said. — AFP.

□ Cairo: Egypt has decided to give the name Sadat to the former Israeli town of Yamit in Sinai, after the late Egyptian President (Reuters reports)

Capitol Hill showdown on Reagan budget

From Bailey Morris, Washington, April 28

President Reagan went to Capitol Hill today for a dramatic showdown over his stalled, 1983 budget with Mr Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, the Democratic leader of the House of Representatives.

They agreed to meet after the collapse late yesterday of a month-long series of bipartisan negotiations in which Democratic and Republican leaders attempted to work out their differences and agree on a compromise budget.

The negotiators emerged after a three-hour session at the White House yesterday, with the message that the talks were hopelessly deadlocked with both sides far apart on the key issues of military spending, tax cuts and social security benefits for the elderly.

It was at this point the Mr James Baker, the White House chief of staff, surprised participants by announcing that Mr Reagan intended to dramatize his promise to "go the extra mile" on the budget by driving across town to Capitol Hill for a meeting with Mr O'Neill.

The two political sparring partners, who have been trading accusations over the budget for the past two weeks, agreed to meet on neutral ground in the ornate President's Room of the United States Senate. Mr Howard Baker, the Republican majority leader of the Senate, was also invited to attend.

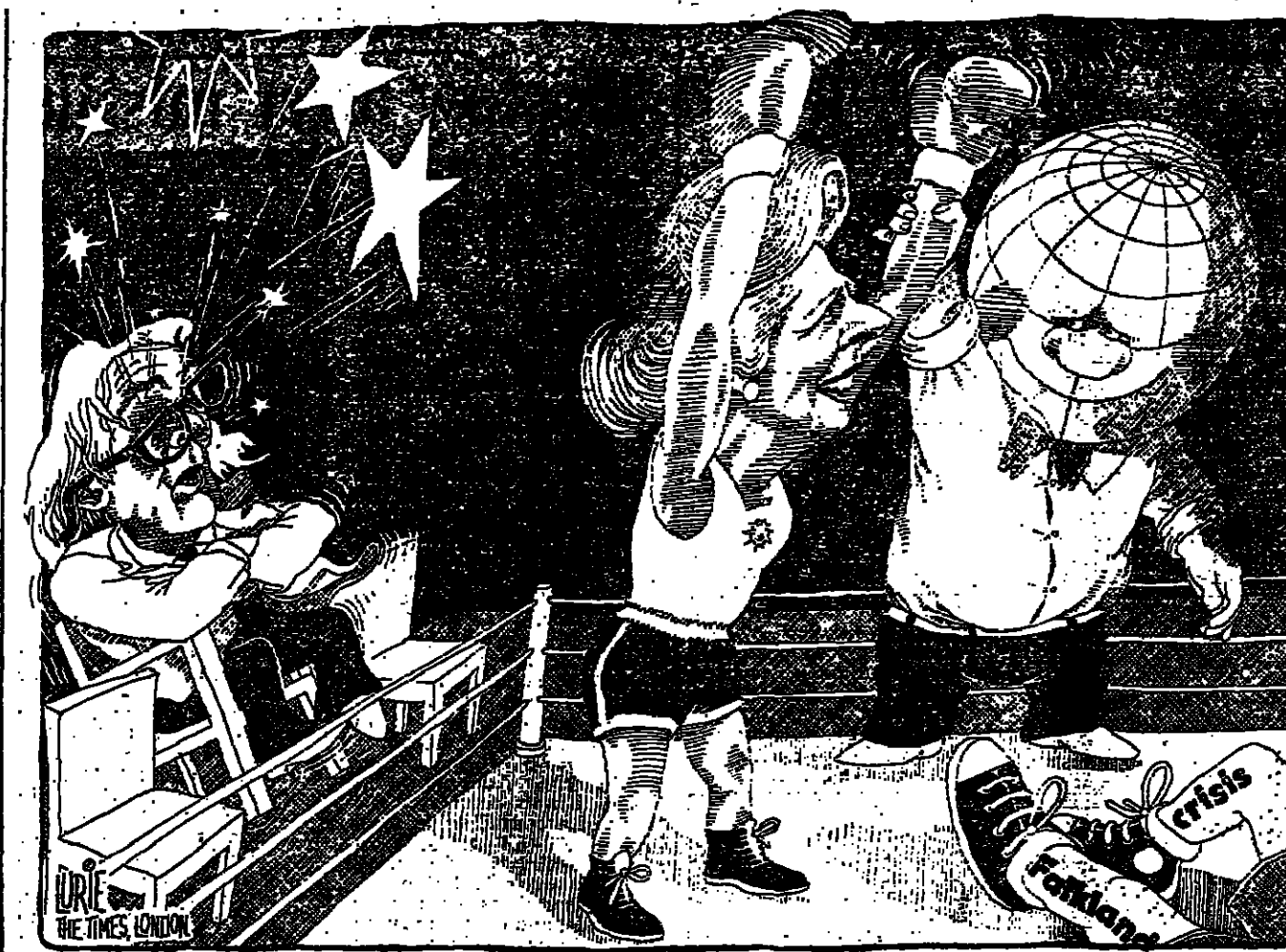
At the outset, members of both parties agreed that the task before the two leaders was both politically important and difficult, if not impossible to achieve. "Both can claim credit for having manoeuvred the budget talks into an impasse. And now both have to figure out a way to break it without getting blamed for it," a senior Republican who participated in the talks said.

If this last-ditch attempt to reach a budget compromise fails, it would trigger both a fierce debate over Mr Reagan's economic policies and severe criticism of the leadership of both men.

The potential for full-scale mutiny within the ranks of both parties has been apparent for weeks. Republican leaders in congress have been open in their criticism of Mr Reagan's budget.

Democrats, who have been equally critical of the budget proposals, have also been open in their dissatisfaction with the leadership of Mr O'Neill. Some younger Democrats, who chair important committees in the House, have privately accused the Speaker of deliberately sabotaging his own party members who were involved in the negotiations.

Based on statements made by the President and Mr O'Neill before the meeting, there was very real fear among members of both parties that the talks would fail.



Round one

Luxembourg meeting

Pym tries to end budget deadlock

From Ian Murray, Luxembourg, April 28

Farm ministers met here today in an attempt to agree an agricultural price package which could find the key to the year-old deadlock over how much Britain should pay into the EEC budget. The meeting was called because Belgium, which is the current President of the Council of Ministers, considered that progress was possible.

Logically, Britain has always argued that it is inevitable that this link exists, since any farm price settlement automatically has a direct effect on the size of budget payments. Mr Pym is as sure as his predecessor, Lord Carrington, that this logic holds good at least in the short term.

There is, nevertheless, a very large gap between the amount which Britain is seeking and the amount which the other nine EEC members now seem prepared to offer Britain. For its part, Britain is prepared to remain a small net contributor to the budget although it is seeking a rebate of around £785m. The other nine countries are prepared to offer about £450m.

Mr Frances Pym, the Foreign Secretary, knows that this is a considerable gap to bridge but he showed during yesterday's negotiations that he could be prepared to cede on other points provided the final budget settlement is high enough.

For one thing, he seemed prepared to accept that any agreed deal would last for less than the five years which Britain until now has been demanding. For another, he promised to tell the British Government that the other EEC countries were anxious to break the link Britain has forged between a farm price settlement and the budget.

The operation code-named "Jobs" was launched on Monday simultaneously in Los Angeles, Fort Worth, Houston, Detroit, San Francisco, Newark, New Jersey, New York, Chicago and Denver. The raids will continue for the rest of the week on factories and stores believed to be hiring unregistered foreign workers at a time when unemployment is over nine per cent in the United States.

The raids drew harsh criticism from Hispanic groups who claimed that the highly publicized drive against the illegal aliens was nothing more than a public relations campaign to divert attention from President Reagan's economic policies, which are the real reason for the mounting unemployment.

Initial response appeared to support the Immigration Service's contention that Americans and legal residents would be willing to take the jobs if they were available, although Hispanic leaders, civil rights groups and union leaders have questioned that contention.

The Immigration Service says it expects 3,000 arrests nationally when the week of raids is completed.

Round-up of aliens stirs US jobless

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles, April 28

Over a thousand jobless workers in Los Angeles swamped local companies looking for jobs in the wake of raids by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service arresting over two thousand suspected illegal immigrants.

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Botha sees Kaunda on Friday

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, April 28

Mr F. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, and President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia are to meet on Friday for what could be a significant confrontation between the leaders of the last white-ruled state in Africa and the fading head of state of one of the key black countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

President Kaunda said the talks would concern the settlement negotiations over independence for Namibia (South West Africa) and the situation in South Africa itself, which he described as explosive. He said he had informed leaders of other black "frontline" states about his meeting.

Although there has been no comment by South Africa on the agenda for the meeting, it is firmly believed that Botha on the list will be Zambia's requests for assistance in supplying it with maize, the staple food of Africa.

Drought throughout South Africa has badly hit this year's crop, and although South Africa is as badly affected as any other maize-growing region, it has a surplus from last year's harvest which could prove to be a political lifeline to President Kaunda.

The initiative for the meeting was made by President Kaunda and Mr Botha gave the suggestion his qualified approval.

Observers in South Africa see President Kaunda's move as an attempt to retain Lusaka's place as the key centre of the African National Congress (ANC) and Swapo campaigns against South Africa and South West Africa, although the reality is that Angola is now the principal state in negotiations between the "frontline" states and South Africa.

At the same time Mr Botha has not a great deal of room for manoeuvre. He has lost 17 National Party MPs to the new Conservative Party, led by Dr Andries Treurnicht, formerly both leader of the National Party in the Transvaal and a cabinet minister, and the prospects are high that more MPs will desert him when his recommendations are tabled in Parliament next month, over limited political power-sharing with Asians and mixed-raced coloureds.

Both Mr Botha and President Kaunda need to return from their summit in the bush on Friday with something that will convince their supporters they still remain, in their respective spheres, the right men for the moment.

France to back Quebec without interfering

From John Best, Ottawa, April 28

M. Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, has told Quebec that France will never again "abandon" it, but that the French Government intends scrupulously to avoid interference in Canadian affairs.

Addressing Quebec's provincial legislature in Quebec City yesterday, M. Mauroy said: "From now on, France will be here, quite present and attentive. She will not abandon you a second time... I say with passion."

"The people of France stand firmly beside your people, Quebec is no longer and will never again be alone in the world."

M. Mauroy was speaking at the close of a five-day visit to Canada which took him to three provinces and included several hours of discussions in Ottawa with Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister. He later flew home to France from Montreal.

His mention of abandonment was a reference to the 200 years after the 1759 English conquest of Quebec,

French hold 20 ETA militants

A routine identity check at Hendaye, on the Spanish border, at the beginning of this week has enabled the French police to arrest 20 members of the military branch of the Basque terrorist organization including 18 Spaniards, and two Frenchmen. It is the first time French nationals have been directly implicated in the activities of the ETA. With these arrests the police consider that the ETA organization on French soil has been smashed.

The police co-op at Hendaye and at Dax also brought in weapons, a large sum of money, forged documents — passports, identity cards, driving licences and so on — photographic and electronic equipment, and a sophisticated radio transmission set.

A US diplomat escapes bomb

Athens, April 28. — A home-made time bomb exploded under an American diplomat's car in the centre of Athens, police said. An extreme left-wing organisation calling itself Revolutionary Popular Struggle claimed responsibility.

The car was parked outside a private parking site and belonged to Mr Stankias Valerga, Second Secretary at the consular section of the embassy. It was the latest in a series of bomb explosions against American targets in protest against the presence of American military bases in Greece.

Professor's son held by KGB

Moscow. — The son of a prominent Soviet professor, whose works have been published in Britain, has been taken to Lefortovo prison in Moscow charged with anti-Soviet activity, according to human rights campaigners here.

They said that on April 6 the KGB arrested 13 people in Moscow, Leningrad, Minsk and Kiev. Those held in Moscow included trade unionists, religious activists and socialists. Among the socialists was Boris Kagaritsky, aged 21 whose father, Professor Kagaritsky, is a frequent visitor to Britain and has had a book published on H. G. Wells.

Gunner jailed

Dortmund. — Gunner John McDonald, 23, a British soldier whose joyride in a petrol tanker led to the death of a West German businessman, was given an 18-month jail sentence and banned from driving for two years by a German court. He was found guilty of negligently endangering traffic, negligent homicide and drunken driving.

Miners killed

Johannesburg. — Four black miners have been killed in separate incidents at two Anglo-American Corporation gold mines south-west of Johannesburg, an earth tremor killed two and injured seven.

A rockburst at Western Deep Levels killed two miners.

Minister quits

Seoul. — South Korea's Interior Minister Mr Suh Chung Hwa, resigned in disgrace and was replaced by a powerful former general, Mr Kim Young Woon, after the authorities proved unable to stop the killing of 56 people by a drunken policeman at a weekend.

Mobs fired on

Delhi. — Police fired into battling mobs of Hindus and Sikhs, killing one person and injuring 12 others in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar in Punjab. A 24-hour curfew was imposed after rioting which followed the discovery of severed cow heads in front of Hindu shrines.



A helping hand: The Pope assisting a bishop who slipped during the Pontiff's general audience in St Peter's Square, Rome.

Hersant buys leading Grenoble newspaper

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, April 28

With the announcement yesterday of the takeover of *Le Dauphiné Libéré*, the Grenoble newspaper, M. Robert Hersant, the owner of the largest press group in France, which includes *Le Figaro*, *L'Aurore*, *France-Soir*, and a string of provincial newspapers, added another feather to his cap.

But he has also revived the controversy about the growing threats to the pluralism of the French press, and raised doubts whether it is any better defended under a Socialist government than under its conservative predecessor.

Le Dauphiné Libéré had been in financial trouble ever since its divorce with *Le Progrès de Lyon*, the other leading newspaper in the Rhône-Alpes region, two years ago, in spite of a circulation of some 400,000 which made it the second largest provincial daily newspaper in the country, after *Ouest-France*.

Turkish activists face stiff prison sentences

Istanbul, April 28. — Colonel Suleyman Takkeci, the Military Prosecutor, demanded prison sentences today for a lawyer and an editor who had defended left-wing intellectuals accused of propagating communism.

Mr Burhan Ayaydin, brother of Mr Dragan Ayaydin, the Turkish Peace Association chairman, and Mr Oktay Gonenim, editor-in-chief of the left-wing newspaper *Cumhuriyet*, could go to jail for up to 18 years if found guilty.

Colonel Takkeci said both men had violated military degrees prohibiting political statements. Political activities have been banned in Turkey since the coup in September 1980.

Mr Dragan and about 20 other intellectuals were arrested by the military authorities early this year, and charged with propagating communism, and having ties with the Soviet-backed World Peace Council. — UPI.

□ Ankara: Mr Haluk Bayulken, the Turkish Defence Minister, said here today, at the end of a two-day meeting of the Turkish-American Joint Defence Group, that it was "out of the question for Turkey to participate in the Rapid Deployment Force" planned by the United States. Mr Bayulken also rejected any possibility of deployment in Turkey of "Euromissiles" or any other nuclear weapons (Reuters writes).

A communiqué noted, however, that "the two sides

agreed that enhancement of Turkey's political, economic and military powers was rapidly assuming a vital importance for the peace and the security of the region".

Mr Richard Perle, a Deputy Secretary of Defence, led the American delegation. His Turkish counterpart, at the head of a top-level team of military and civilian experts, was General Necdet Ozturk, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces.

The communiqué also mentioned that "possible weaknesses in Nato's current defence and deterrent capabilities" had been studied at the meeting.

Turkey has been requesting American assistance for the procurement of arms, as well as in its efforts to develop an indigenous defence industry, within the framework of the two-year-old bilateral Defence Cooperation Agreement. This, in turn, grants Washington continuing use of a number of electronic intelligence stations and an air base.

The United States, however, while agreeing to provide assistance for some tank-modernization and ship-building projects, has been taking care not to commit itself to Turkey's ambitious plans to produce such sophisticated jet fighters as the F16 or F18. The Americans have advised the Turkish authorities to limit their plans to production of cheaper and less sophisticated F15 interceptors.

Saudis linked to Iran plot

An Iranian jailed for his part in a plot to overthrow Iran's Islamic Government has implicated Saudi Arabia in the attempt, the national news agency IRNA reported yesterday. (Reuters reports from London)

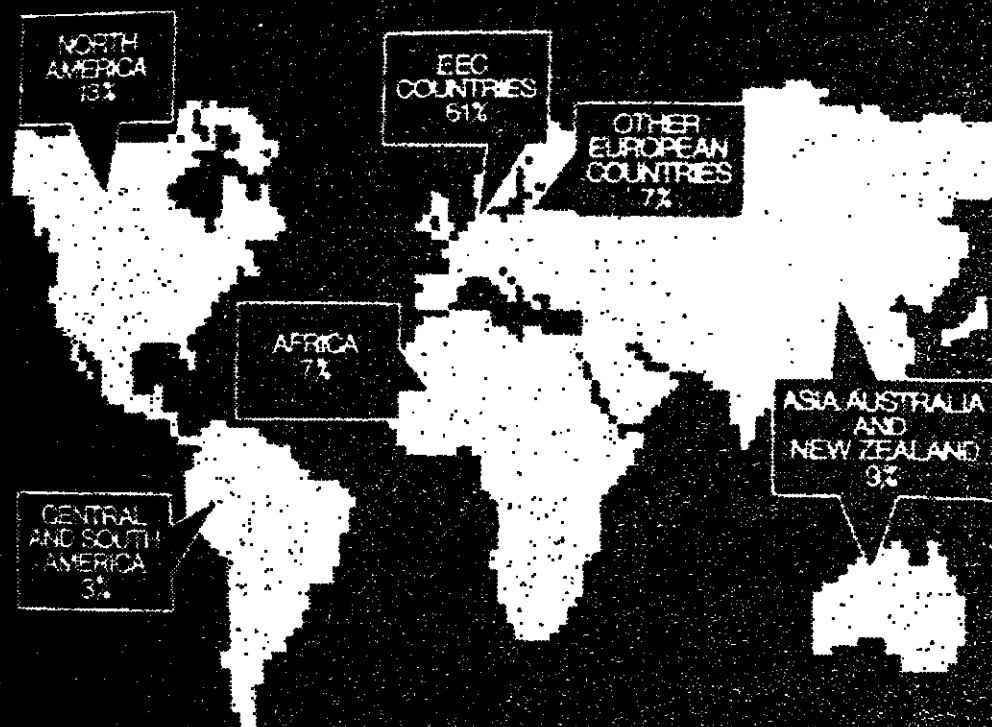
Mr Ahmad Abassi, son-in-law of Ayatollah Kazem Shari'at-Madari, Iran's second-ranking religious leader, said in an interrogation shown on television on Tuesday night that Saudi authorities had promised

their full support for the plot, according to IRNA.

He said Hojatoleslam Mahdavi-Kani, a representative of Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari, had met Prince Abdulla, the Saudi second deputy Prime Minister, to tell him about the aims of the plot.

Both Mr Abassi and Hojatoleslam Mahdavi-Kani are being tried by a military court and face possible death sentences.

100-107689



A 3D pie chart illustrating the distribution of the 1980-81 corporate tax bill. The chart is divided into four segments: a large white segment (67%) labeled 'TO EMPLOYEES IN WAGES, SALARIES AND PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS', a dark grey segment (15%) labeled 'RE-INVESTED IN BUSINESS', a white segment (9%) labeled 'TO GOVERNMENTS IN TAXATION', and a dark grey segment (9%) labeled 'TO PROVIDERS OF CAPITAL'.

Category	Percentage
TO EMPLOYEES IN WAGES, SALARIES AND PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS	67%
RE-INVESTED IN BUSINESS	15%
TO GOVERNMENTS IN TAXATION	9%
TO PROVIDERS OF CAPITAL	9%

A bar chart comparing ATTRIBUTABLE and OPERATING costs in £ million from 1977 to 1981. The Y-axis ranges from 0 to 700 in increments of 100. ATTRIBUTABLE costs are shown in white bars, and OPERATING costs are shown in black bars.

Year	ATTRIBUTABLE (£ million)	OPERATING (£ million)
1977	250	280
1978	270	330
1979	310	300
1980	290	300
1981	400	300

PRODUCT DIVERSITY

Product Category	Percentage
OTHER FOODS	23%
DETERGENTS	18%
MARGARINE, OTHER FATS & OILS, DAIRY PRODUCTS	24%
ANIMAL FEEDS	6%
CHEMICALS	6%
PLANTATIONS, TRANSPORT, OTHER INTERESTS	7%
UIC INTERNATIONAL	9%
PERSONAL PRODUCTS	4%
PAPER, PLASTICS, PACKAGING	3%

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TOO MANY MEN AT THE HELM

To judge from Question Time on Tuesday, today's Commons debate on the Falklands threatens to be more partisan than those which have preceded it. But the House must be careful. The principles laid down at the first debate are still intact. The Government's strategy then, as now, was to undo the aggression, and thereafter be prepared to negotiate an agreement which would prevent such circumstances recurring. That meant that the Argentine troops had to be withdrawn from the Islands before anything else could occur but that, following such a withdrawal, Britain would recognise that the tension caused by the issue of disputed sovereignty lay at the root of the aggression, and would show willingness to discuss any ways to relieve that tension. The only condition was that any future agreement had to be consistent with the Islanders' security — as much, and certainly no less, than before — and with the vital strategic principle that no unprovoked aggression, anywhere in the world, should receive a gratuitous award if one is in a position to deny it. In other words, sovereignty could be arbitrated about, and then discussed on the basis of rights; but could certainly not be ceded under any kind of duress.

That was the strategic objective and the tactics to be employed in achieving it were, and are, a necessary mixture of negotiation and the counterforce deployment of the Fleet. It is therefore tactics — not strategy — that the House is debating today. In particular, it is the tactical balance to be maintained between negotiations and counterforce, between carrot and stick, between soft voice and strong arm.

There are two difficulties which the House should bear in mind. The first is over the nature of the Argentine Government with which Britain is trying to negotiate. The second is the safety of the British troops engaged in dangerous but necessary operations. The two are connected in the sense that, on both counts, the Prime Minister will not be able to take the

House fully into her confidence. It is important in any dispute, even at the level of the family solicitor, to discover who speaks for the other party. In the case of Argentina, this has proved virtually impossible to discover, even for the United States, let alone for Great Britain. It is frequently possible to negotiate with dictators and reach agreement with them because, by their nature, they have no wider constituency to worry about. That is not the case with the Argentine junta. It is not the case that President (or should it just be Lieutenant General?) Galtieri has the power to make decisions and to see that they are carried through.

Even during Mr Haig's visits to Buenos Aires and more particularly since then, the Americans have found themselves unable to answer even the most elementary questions about the people with whom they are dealing in the Argentine leadership. What is the junta? Who decides for it? At every stage of negotiation there seem to be personal and inter-service rivalries which distort the picture. There are also colonels in the wings, apparently dictating different terms to those previously agreed round the table. It is like negotiating with a blam-mange. Indeed, it is not really a negotiation at all, though that can scarcely be admitted by statesmen who realise that this apparent — though hardly real — process is all that stands between them and the inevitable extension of the military option which accompanies it.

That brings us to the second difficulty about today's debate. It is doubly clear that the momentum of negotiations — if that is what it can be called — is only kept going at all by the prospect of imminent military operations. If that prospect receded, it would expose servicemen to greater risks, but it would also increase the blam-mange-like properties of the junta's negotiating position. We would all be the losers.

Yesterday's announcement of the air exclusion zone is

consistent with everything that has gone before. It announced that Britain will from noon on Friday be in a position to deny Argentina any further supply or reinforcement to its invasion force. Equally it gives the junta 48 hours grace in which to comply with the United Nations resolution and withdrawal. Once the quarantine is established there are a number of military options open to the Government, but they should not be widely discussed in the House today. However it is not only the Fleet that cannot be allowed to wallow for long in the inhospitable South Atlantic seas. Pressure must be kept up continuously, in the diplomatic sphere, economically and through military tactics to undo the aggression.

The mood in the House on Tuesday, and the correspondence between the Prime Minister and Mr Foot, suggest that the Government may be in danger now of losing the cross-party support that has sustained it so far. A bi-partisan approach reassures the country, and has impressed the rest of the world. It would be a pity to lose it; but, like peace, unity can be bought at too high a price. It is not yet even certain that the unity of the House, behind the Government's general strategy, is up for sale. It is conditional, and has always been so, and the conditions are simply being re-examined.

However, though Mrs Thatcher would be right to continue to listen to opinions expressed from all parts of the House, she is equally right to retain for the Government its freedom of manoeuvre, particularly in the military sphere, to do what it believes to be advisable without first having to take it out on the House of Commons, or to try it out on the United Nations. The strategy has been defined, and supported. To give a wider body now the chance to wrangle over the tactical details, without its having the full facts on which to base considered judgments, would put more lives at risk in the South Atlantic than there are already. The House will have to exercise self-control.

NOT THE ANSWER FOR BRITISH AIRWAYS

Fiddling with management structures is rarely a solution to a fundamental commercial malaise and is most unlikely to prove so in the case of British Airways. The decision of the corporation with Cabinet backing to announce a return to the old BEA-BOAC divisions of long-haul and short-haul operations has been presented as a return to all those good old-fashioned concepts of devolved management and profit centres. It may be. The measures seem to have been proposed by a lengthy and still confidential report on the corporation by accountants Price, Waterhouse. But the real impetus has rather different origins.

The Government is now in a hurry to show real progress in its plans to privatise the large public corporations and introduce private shareholding into British Airways. In the present parlous state of the air industry in general, and of British Airways in particular, and with the stock market uncertainties in the background, the chances of a successful BA sale have recently seemed slim. Restoring old operating divisions has the double advantage of seeming to do something and producing a separation of accounts that makes it easier to sell shares in, or the whole assets of the more successful

bits of British Airways, such as helicopters.

The idea is not without some management logic. The two halves of British Airways have never easily settled down together and many of its management problems have arisen from the inability of a badly-structured central management to overcome past rivalries. As so often in both private and nationalised industries, the result of large-scale mergers has been to produce more bureaucracy rather than greater economy. If a restoration of old loyalties can raise morale and help prune costs, so much the better.

What the reorganization cannot do, of course, is bring the corporation back to profitability within the two years envisaged by its chairman, Sir John King. BA's problems arise from running too many routes with too many staff and too little efficiency at a time of considerable surplus capacity in the market and much lower demand growth than expected.

The corporation is doing something about its overmanning. Already 9,000 have left under a voluntary redundancy scheme, and a further 6,000 may still have to go to get manning down to competitive levels. The new structure may do something for efficiency,

although it is hard to see that a series of divisions, each with its own apparatus of boards and overheads topped by still more central boards, will promote leanness. The only things that can be done to turn round the finances are to raise fares by international agreement (hardly a competitive stance for this government), to sell subsidiaries in hotels and helicopters (a likely development), and drastically to reduce routes (which involves political decisions about the nature of a flag carrier).

At the moment British Airways is a state airline operating in a world where state airlines and inter-state agreements determine market conditions. If the Government wishes to abandon this role, then it should sell British Airways entirely and let the market produce the operators and the routes. If the Government wants to continue using a flag carrier to support the aircraft manufacturing industry and to ensure a British presence on certain routes, then there is little to be gained by private share ownership. The latter course would be to sell off whichever parts are inessential to the main objectives of a flag carrier, and to promote efficiency by allowing open competition from private airlines.

Ordination of women

From the Reverend G. R. and Dr K. M. Curry
Sir, On what grounds does your leader writer assert today (April 22) that "the ordination of women is right in principle"? The Anglo-Catholic, according to his principles, says that such is contrary to the traditions and teaching of the Church, whilst the Evangelical says that the introduction of such a practice is forbidden by Scripture. One can only suppose then that this assertion is based on the so-called majority view of the middle-of-the-road "men" of the Church of England.

We would all do well to note carefully George Bernard Shaw's words: "The majority is always wrong; the minority sometimes right" before we do something that we will later regret.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE CURRY,
KATHRYN CURRY,
St Stephen's Vicarage,
Clumber Street, Cradock Park,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Polo's travels

From Mr John Black
Sir, Your "Focus on China" of April 14, had an article on Marco

Polo, "The Explorer's Tracks", in which some doubt is cast on whether Marco Polo ever visited China. It cannot be denied that Marco Polo embroiled on hearsay accounts and that he is on no Chinese historical records of the period but it must be said that an extraordinary number of scholars spent much time in in-depth study of his travels.

The basis of the case against Marco Polo, in your article, is that he showed no interest in recording his travels until he was a prisoner of war in Genoa. There with a fellow-prisoner, Rustichello of Pisa, sometimes known as Rustichello, an author of romance novels in Franco-Italian, Marco told his story. Your writer would appear to consider, with some others, that Rustichello's version is the Polian Bible and all texts handed down are its descendants.

Did Marco Polo make notes and a memorandum during his long sojourn in the East? Did he recount something of his travels to fellow-Venetians and indeed his three daughters? Before he died about 1328, there is some evidence to prove that Marco Polo handed all his documents and maps to one Admiral Rugiero Sanseverinus, referred to by his descendants as the "Ancestor".

In this respect Leo Bagrow's *The Maps from the Home Archives of the Descendants of a Friend of Marco Polo*, Image Mundi 5(1948):3-13, is of interest.

But there is another reference to Marco Polo's China-relation which cannot be left out. Sir Aurel Stein, at the beginning of this century, describing his journey across the formidable deserts of Taklamakan and Gobi, makes reference 18 times in his *Ruins of Desert Cathay* to Marco Polo's account and its close comparison to his own experience.

Then, finally, it must be said that Marco Polo's record is one of the important sources for the obscure history and archaeology of Central Asia. It is enough to say here that this was accepted at a much later date through his version of the ruined cities of Karakhoja near Turfan in Xinjiang province and Karakoto at the oasis of Etsin Gol, in the province of Gansu, identified by Stein as Marco Polo's Etsin.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BLACK,
63 The Woodlands,
Essex,
April 22.

Laws of war applicable to armed conflict in the Falklands

From Mr Adam Roberts
Sir, As the crisis over the Falklands reaches its most acute stage the Government owes it to those most directly involved — especially our Forces in the area and the inhabitants of the occupied territory — to clarify the application of the laws of war to this armed conflict and to the Argentine occupation of the islands.

The Government has got into a confusion of its own making about the applicability of the laws of war in general and the status of prisoners in particular. A statement made by a Ministry of Defence spokesman on Monday, April 26, and an answer by the Prime Minister in the Commons on the same day both indicated that the Argentine military personnel captured in South Georgia on April 25 and 26 are not prisoners of war. The Prime Minister's exact words were: "Those prisoners are not grime-owners of war. A state of war does not exist between ourselves and the Argentine".

The British authorities seem unaware of the fact that the laws of war are applicable in cases of armed conflict or military occupation whether or not there is any formal state of war or declaration of war. This was explicitly recognized in 1946 in judgment of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, in statements regarding the German occupation of Czechoslovakia, and the same point is spelt out in common article 2,

which appears in each of the four Geneva conventions of 1949. It states, inter alia: "The present Convention shall apply to all cases of declared war or of any other armed conflict which may arise between two or more of the High Contracting Parties, even if the state of war is not recognized by one of them."

Argentina is a party to the Hague land war convention of 1864, Britain to the almost identical Hague land war convention of 1907. The terms of the latter convention (and annexed regulations) have been authoritatively viewed as declaratory of customary international law, and in addition, both Britain and Argentina are parties to all four Geneva conventions of 1949. Both states are also parties to the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

The conclusion from all this is inescapable that the laws of war have been fully applicable to the Argentine occupation of the Falkland Islands, and to the armed conflict in that area, ever since April 2, even if there is not a formal state of war.

In the past, both parties have so far conducted their hostilities with considerable care, but there are nevertheless grounds for concern about the observance of the laws of war. It is astonishing that the Government has failed to put publicly and in detail that the Argentine occupation of the islands is subject to numerous detailed provisions of the Hague regulations and of 1907 Geneva Convention IV — and that

certain of these provisions have apparently not been observed. It is also surprising that the Government has not expressly recognized that the military personnel captured on both sides so far must, under article 4 of the 1949 Geneva Convention III, be regarded as, and treated as, prisoners of war; article 117 of this same convention should also be noted: "No repatriated person may be employed on active military service."

Clarification is needed on these and many other points before, not after, the conflict worsens. Yours sincerely,
ADAM ROBERTS,
Reader in International Relations,
St Antony's College,
Oxford,
April 28.

From Lord Perth
Sir, Lord Mishcon's letter of April 26 advocates letting the islands know we are ready to submit our sovereignty claim to The Hague court. I agree we should at the same time announce that three or more flags can fly while the court considers the case, provided resolution 502 is not violated.

Let us always remember that over the long term the welfare of the islands must depend on Argentina.

Yours truly,
PERTH,
House of Lords,
April 27.

The roots of crisis

From Lord Buxton
Sir, Possibly the first benefit of the present crisis is that nobody can afford to score party points following the Argentine invasion. The cupboard is full of skeletons written by opponents' labels since 1955, because in the interval ministers of all parties have been misled by short-sightedness and misjudgment, however well intentioned.

The regular official references to "the cost of protecting 1,800 distant subjects" and the monstrous cost of British subjects with that world millions ("the islanders receive more aid per capita than any other country") have shown over and over again that Whitehall has never comprehended that the Falklands and South Georgia and the other Dependencies are the key to the political stability of the South Atlantic and the safeguard of the free world's future interests and opportunities in Antarctica. Even if only 10 Falkland islanders want to remain after this hideous and needless experience, this factor remains paramount.

Therefore that at last we have a Government with the courage to acknowledge and redeem the fatal blunders of judgment which have cost our country in a matter of days the millions which would have been enough to protect the Antarctic interests of Britain and the West probably for half a century or more.

I had a long private talk with Señor Costa Méndez in Buenos Aires on February 22 and I make no comment here on my impressions, but the personal views of individual British ministers with whom he had contact during two terms of office over more than 15 years were revealing and allow nobody to claim that the Government alone bears the responsibility for the present catastrophic situation which at long last is being faced up to with firm resolution.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
BUXTON,
Stiffey,
Norfolk,
April 27.

From Mr Julian Cooper
Sir, I was born in Argentina of British parents, hold British passports, but my personal life has been lived in Britain for many years, and was last in Buenos Aires in December.

I was appalled by the jingoism of your leading article "We are all Falklanders now" (April 25). Let me persuade you to print the article by Tony Emerson (April 24). His piece showed real insight, perhaps of a kind available only to someone who actually lives in Argentina.

Some "an" what about Gibraltar?" I would answer that the situation between Spain and the United Kingdom vis à vis this problem (Gibraltar) is all the more reason why Spain should be asked, or should offer its good services, to abort a war.

Office, though rightly concerned in his article (April 26) about the welfare of the Falklanders, reveals a contempt for Argentina which would be unlikely to lead to a peaceful solution. To say that "the Argentines were revealed as unscrupulous cheats" is not the language of effective diplomacy.

I believe it would be unwise to regard the retaking of South Georgia with the enthusiasm of a football supporter whose side has just scored. In terms of Britain's long-term interests, let alone the far more important question of simple humanity in one's behaviour to other human beings, every Argentine death inflicted by Britain and every injury to Argentine self-respect is equivalent to our scoring an "own goal".

I telephoned my parents yesterday. Just outside Buenos Aires, retain their British passports, are now in their late seventies, and have lived peacefully in Argentina for over 50 years. They both said that since the crisis began they have been moved by the sympathy and kindness of their friends and neighbours of all Argentines, some of British descent and some not.

Seen from Buenos Aires, the Foreign Office advice to British subjects to evacuate Argentina, looks about as practical as suggesting that British subjects should evacuate Britain.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN COOPER,
46 St Grove Park Road, W4,
April 26.

From Mr John W. Lucas
Sir, It now sadly seems that Mr Haig's shuttle between London, Buenos Aires and Washington to secure passage in the South Atlantic has failed.

As he stated, time is running out. Who then can mediate? Surely it cannot be too difficult to realize that there is now only one government and country left on Earth that can try to abort war in the Falklands.

Spain has maintained a neutral balance in the last three weeks, abstaining in the UN Security Council. Spain is a democratic, western European monarchy, like us, with young men of good will in government and opposition.

Spain is joining Nato in the next few weeks and therefore, before the summer starts, will be our fully fledged ally. She also has stronger ties with the Argentine than any nation on Earth (with the possible exception of Uruguay). Most Argentines respect the old mother country, as they call Spain, and would possibly listen more to Spain than to the United States.

Some "an" what about Gibraltar?" I would answer that the situation between Spain and the United Kingdom vis à vis this problem (Gibraltar) is all the more reason why Spain should be asked, or should offer its good services, to abort a war.

Perils in Sicily

From Mrs D. B. Waterhouse
Sir, I have every sympathy with Mr John Tatham and his wife (April 26) in their unpleasant experience in Sicily. But with reference to his last paragraph, it is not always essential that there should be a consulate at hand.

In October last year my handbag was snatched in Palermo by two youths with a motor scooter, although I had thought I was alert to the danger. It contained little money, but did hold my passport. It was Saturday evening, most places were closed, but the police station was open and busy.

The police official, while typing out in quadruplicate the details of my loss with great panache and somewhat eccentric spelling (it was the sixteenth of its kind he had done that day), assured me that there was no need to try and contact the British consul, as the authorities in Sicily and in England would accept the police report.

This proved perfectly correct, and with a copy of the report I had no difficulty in re-entering England, in obtaining a new passport and in claiming the full insurance.

Incidentally, five months later my passport was handed in to the British consul — in Naples.

Yours faithfully,
JESSIE WATERHOUSE,
5 Essex Villas, W8,
April 27.

John Walters case

From the Director of the Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory
Sir, In last Saturday's issue (April 17) you commented in a preview on the BBC programme *Rough Justice*, which was subsequently transmitted on Wednesday evening, April 21. Unfortunately the section dealing with the forensic evidence, both in your feature and in the BBC transmission, was incorrect. The details are as follows:

The clothing of the victim and of the laboratory and the extraneous items were received in separate sealed packages.

That of the victim was examined in the laboratory and the extraneous items were examined before the suspect's clothing was unsealed.

Therefore there can be no substance in the allegations of fibre transfer by accident in the laboratory.

The suspect's coat was a blue/mauve cotton corduroy jacket with a mauve

synthetic lining. (Fibres from the blue coat appeared under the microscope.) There were 23 fibres matching those of the jacket found in the victim's clothes.

These were mauve cotton, matching the outside of the jacket. They were found on the blouse, skirt and jacket of the victim.

Also found on the clothing of the victim were some green cotton fibres which matched those composing the suspect's trousers.

The matching of the fibres was not just visually by colour. It included comparison microscopy, ultra-violet fluorescence microscopy, and thin layer chromatographic analysis of the dyes.

The mauve colour had four different dye components and that of the green fibres had three.

It is highly improbable that these fibres would be picked up by the victim by random chance.

Yours truly,
D. L. WILLIAMS,
The Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory,
109 Lambeth Road, SE1,
April 23.

Coroners' powers

From Mr Henry Hartley
Sir, The article (April 13) by Mr Michael Meacher, MP, and the letter (April 24) by Mr M. J. D. Baker show the necessity for changes in coroners' powers. A further change should be to grant a discretionary power (subject to proper safeguards) to coroners to dispense with public inquests in cases where deceased take their own lives.

In many of these cases the statements taken by coroners' officers and the post-mortem reports clearly show the cause of death and the intention of the deceased, and public inquests in such cases cause distress to relatives, may encourage others to imitate a deceased's action, and serve no useful social purpose.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY HARTLEY,
3 Watford Road,
Buxton,
Derbyshire,
April 26.

Restoration of the death penalty

From Mr Louis FitzGibbon
Sir, The essence of Nicholas Fairbairn's argument for the restoration of capital punishment (April 27) is the availability of the death sentence for capital crime. He argues exactly that it is up to the judge and jury to decide upon the motives of the offender: if they are seen to be from motives other than pure and deliberate intent, then a killing may be a manslaughter. If, on the other hand, they can be perceived to emanate from evil, then a verdict of guilty of murder would be returned.

Her Majesty's judges are not foolish, and it is the trial judge of the day who would be failing in his duty to the Crown and to the people if he did not sentence him to death. Knowledge of this would indeed, as it did in days of yore, deter criminals bent on robbery, rape or other such. As "organizer" of Duncan Sandys's petition to Parliament in 1967-68 I met several real criminals; they all abhorred the idea of abolishing the ultimate sanction for they knew that without it robbers would take guns to banks when otherwise they would not.

What is so often forgotten is that in 1965 the death penalty was abolished for five years, which is to say that a final decision would have been due in the summer of 1970. However, the Home Secretary of that time foresaw party difficulties for a general election and he managed to bring the date for decision forward by a whole eight months. Thus it was that capital punishment was abolished in December of 1969 — Parliament was bamboozled, and the people were deprived of a sure shield against predators.

As discipline declines in our country, the majority want hanging brought back, for they realize by instinct that this is what is needed. Yet parliamentarians somehow balk at the idea. Let us hope they will not shirk their representative duty this time.

In your same issue you publish a small letter from a cleric: what he forgets is that an evil man once given his deserts cannot commit his crime again. In my view, churchmen would do better to be upon their knees praying for humanity, such as would prevent them from speaking out upon matters which are not their concern.

If, D.V., capital punishment can be restored to the statute book then we shall see a return of the Great Britain of which we were once so proud.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours sincerely,
LOUIS FITZGIBBON,
Langstone Towers,
Havant,
Hampshire,
April 27.

Housing the poor

From Mr A. A. Chappell
Sir, In your second leader of today's date (April 21) you aver: "Council housing should not be charity housing for the poor" and thus support a very popular view. My, minority, view is that this is precisely what it should be.

Those successful tenants who can earn £8,000 a year, or more, should be congratulated and helped to move out and on to better things. Their places would then become available for the homeless, the low-wage earners and, indeed, all those living in substandard and inadequate private accommodation.

The Conservative policy is to sell at low cost to the tenant, the property he has long rented, at low cost.

The Labour policy is to perpetuate low rents to its sitting tenants and that largely irrespective of their income.

One of these philosophies, the "poor", as defined above, get nowhere.

Yours truly,
A. A. CHAPPELL,
26 Victoria Road,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire,
April 21.

Surgeon's hungry allies

From Mr A. A. Berends
Sir, A reproduction of Dr George Merryweather's "Tempest Prognosticator" using a dozen leeches in bottles (Letters, April 20, 24), shown at the 1951 Great Exhibition, constructed for the 1951 Festival of Britain Exhibition, is on view at Whitby, North Yorks, where it occupies a prominent place in the museum run by the Whitby Literary & Philosophical Society, of which Dr Merryweather was at one time Hon. Curator.

Though the concept of using leeches in such an equipment may now seem amusing it was certainly intended seriously at the time. Dr Merryweather confidently hoped that "our Whitby pygmy temples would be distributed over the world".

Yours faithfully,
A. A. BERENDS,
Hon. Keeper & Joint Hon. Sec. Whitby Literary & Philosophical Society,
Whitby Museum,
Pannett Park,
Whitby, North Yorks.
April 26.

From Mr S. B. Jackson
Sir, Should not "Surgeon's hungry allies" be "Surgeon's thirsty allies"? Yours faithfully,
S. B. JACKSON,
17 Lingsfield Close,
Northwood,
Middlesex

THE ARTS

Jazz
Singer
supreme

Betty Carter

Ronnie Scott's

Twenty years ago Betty Carter was a peripheral figure, barely even allowed to join the queue which formed up behind Ella, Sarah and Carmen. Twenty years hence, baring mishaps, she will be universally viewed as the grande dame of jazz singing.

The slow but inexorable rise to prominence of this thoroughly remarkable musician is one of the miracles of recent jazz history.

Her early visits to Ronnie Scott's were notable for fidgety audiences caught unawares by the uncompromising nature of her performance. To enter the club during one of her sets this week was to be enmeshed in the stillness of absolute attention; at last the audience has caught up with her.

To keep up, however, we must continue to run. Miss Carter was always unlikely to relax in the face of acceptance, and her current performance makes it clear that she will never be content with merely refining a highly idiosyncratic style. Now we can hear her scat-singing, always the most difficult aspect of a jazz vocalist's art, moving away from the standard nonsense syllables into a kind of musical Esperanto which is far more varied and expressive.

Still, though, the dead-slow ballads are her glory, particularly when she picks up a piece of Tin Pan Alley fluff and invests it with previously unimaginable substance. "When I Fall in Love" for example, has a line about moonlight kissing cooling in the warmth of the sun which would pass unnoticed in the crooning of Nat Cole or the glee-clubbing of the Lettermen; stretched and warped by Miss Carter, italicized by graceful slow-motion gestures reminiscent of telenovela, it becomes startlingly surrealistic.

She is famous for her prescient choice of accompanists, who must listen and respond to her at least as acutely as they would to a horn-player. The pianist Khalid Moss, the bassist Curtis Lundy and the drummer Louis Nash have been with her a while, and respond with instant power to the slightest touch of throttle or brake. They are at Frith Street until May 6.

Richard Williams

Paris galleries

The overall vision of
Jackson Pollock

Jackson Pollock/
Man Ray

Centre Georges Pompidou
Léger et l'esprit moderne

Musée d'Art Moderne de
la Ville de Paris

Pascin

Hôtel de Ville de Paris

Varlin

Galerie Claude Bernard/
Galerie Albert Loeb

Where artists came from is seldom as interesting as where they eventually go to. But supposing that the art of their maturity is enduring enough to hold our attention years after they themselves are dead, the whole question of by what stages and through what uncharted ways they arrived at it assumes a fascination of its own. Now that nearly all the major figures of that great Fifties flowering of American painting which made New York for a while the undisputed capital of contemporary art are gone, naturally we have been having a series of elaborate retrospectives, with solid documentation of the beginning and early works unearthed for our delectation and dissection. And it is amazing how frequently a Surrealist child proves to be father of the Abstract Expressionist man.

That is even the case with Jackson Pollock, at the time the most famous and controversial of all the New York painters. Though on the evidence of the large-scale Pollock show at the Centre Pompidou (until May 10) one should perhaps talk rather of a Surrealist teenager, since at least two important stages of Pollock's artistic development before the Surrealist are clearly revealed. This is the first Pollock show which his widow, the painter Lee, has not only advised on, but opened her own extraordinary holding of his work to. Last November there was a sort of forerunner in the intriguing show at NYU's Grey Gallery called *Krasner/Pollock: A Working Relationship*, which demonstrated clearly how husband and wife went through much the same phases and underwent much the same influences in the Thirties and Forties before achieving their separate maturities at the beginning of the Fifties.

From that we could discover the significance of Pollock's having studied under Thomas Hart Benton, a painting such as *Camp with Rig* in the New York show or *Going West* in this even looks like the work of Benton and that group

of American regionalist realists. We also get in Paris clear evidence of the next important influence underpinning *Naked Man with Knife* of c.1940: immediately calls to mind, both in its predominantly terra cotta colouring and in its overall melodramatic gesture, the murals of Orozco. It is in the early Forties that a decidedly Surrealist tinge came over the work (especially the drawings, not shown here). And by 1943 two of the vital interests of Pollock as we first knew him are becoming apparent in *Guardians of the Secret* there is an overlay of calligraphic scribbles, and in *Composition with Pouring II* (poured paint, that is) we see the genesis of the drip and dribble and splash technique which gained him instant notoriety a few years later.

So, how do those famous "action paintings" of 1947-53 look now? Surprisingly enough, the general effect is one of tranquillity. For all one knows about how he painted them (the famous film of Pollock at work is showing continuously in the lobby), not to mention the frenzy of his private life, what is distilled into art is strangely restful, an abstract pattern as airy and remote as an oriental manuscript, holding passion at a remove of exquisite formality. This is broken up in the troubled paintings of the last year when Pollock seems to be going in several directions at once — even in *Portrait and a Dream*, within one painting (the left-hand side is a black-and-white abstraction, the right a perfectly recognizable human head in colour). It is a very revealing show, giving us at last a proper chance to see Pollock whole and proving that in his case distance in time (it is, after all, getting on for 30 years since he died) does lend enchantment to the view.

In comparison, the other major show at Beaubourg, Man Ray (until May 2), is almost wilfully marginal and elusive. That is perhaps because it centres, officially, on Man Ray's photographic work, but by its physical arrangement suggests that the photographs are a kind of annex to his paintings and constructions. In any case, 57 non-photographic, or not primarily photographic, works (even as against 370 much smaller photographs) are not easily dismissed. And some of the paintings are really astonishing: the bare outlines of the large *Trois parolles pour dames* or *cavaliers délicats* (elaborated between 1917 and 1927) seem much closer to the world of Patrick Caulfield than that of early Dalí or Ernst, comparisons which suggest themselves elsewhere. But there is no doubt that, while Man Ray's standing as a painter remains arguable, that of his photography can hardly be questioned. The range is enormous: some of the best portraits of the Twenties (or



The regionalist realism of Pollock's "Going West"

the Fifties; for that matter) rub shoulders with wonderfully funny and erotic abstractions. Poles from the cameras, high fashion photography for *Vogue* and splendidly cool and clear-eyed townscapes of still-lives.

In view of Man Ray's happy and total acceptance of the twentieth century in his work (not that it has ever been all that easy to reject), it would not be surprising if he turned up somewhere in the magnificent show Léger et l'esprit moderne, 1918-1931, at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, until June 6. On the other hand, so much from so many sources is packed in that it is not at all surprising he does not. The theme, as the title indicates, is the response of the arts during the Twenties to the idea of modernity, to capturing the essence of the twentieth century. Many of the artists represented clearly agreed with the rather earlier Futurists that speed was central: over and over there are images of trains and boats and planes streaking in, dazzling, carelessly, impersonal splendour across a world suddenly grown small. Again, the impersonality of the machine, so worshipped by the Futurists, is omnipresent: humans in motion (often playing tennis, sport par excellence of the era) are often reduced to finely efficient machines; humans at rest become robots, all personality eliminated in the interests of monumental simplicity.

Léger is perhaps fairly singled out as the type-figure of all this,

but in the show he does not bulk significantly larger than anyone else. And in detail one tends to notice others more, if only because of their unfamiliarity: Poles from Polish collections and Swedes from Swedish collections are certainly more exotic than the admirable but familiar Ecole de Paris. It is no doubt fortunate since the show moves on immediately to Houston, Texas, that Americans such as Demuth and Sheeler look so good in the company of their European contemporaries and peers. But, finally, the show is much more than the sum of its parts: it is hard to imagine one aspect of the Twenties more accurately and comprehensively mirrored.

Impressive as this is, there is undeniably a certain relief to be felt in adjourning to an artist of the same period who was so thoroughly human and sensuous in his approach as Pascin. The show at the recently refurbished Salle St Jean in the Hôtel de Ville, a very pleasing addition to the exhibition spaces of Paris, until May 16, shows off to the full his total love of women, both as a man and as a painter. He never seems to tire of their shapes and attitudes, and one can well believe what the (for once admirably informative) audio-visual tells us about his technique of sitting around talking with his models for hours until they were totally relaxed and natural, then painting them very quickly and surely. He certainly enjoyed a touch of low life too and there are some very jolly brothel scenes as well as a lot of stocking-tops and

skirts up around the waist and smiling provocation. But somehow he is always the artist first. And, lord knows, he could paint. Though he was, it seems, obsessed with the idea of suicide long before he actually did it (in 1930), the whole show seems to radiate *luxa, calma et volupte*.

In his twenties Varlin knew Pascin. But he lived on until 1977, working constantly, in almost complete isolation and obscurity — sometimes in Britain, as some vivid landscapes of drab urban streets bear witness. He has now been rediscovered in a show which, over the last month, spread over three galleries in the Rue des Beaux Arts, those of Claude Bernard and Albert Loeb. The show is now gone, but I make no apology for writing about it, since the effect was so extraordinary we have certainly not heard the last of Varlin. Completely outside fashion (except for a momentary coincidence with the British "kitchen sink" school), he made his own world from details of street and domestic life, painted with almost expressionist emotional abandon. His babies have all the primeval savagery one can sometimes see peeping out of a cute cat; and I think I shall remember for ever a large, turbulent painting of a grey mattress and pillow rearing dangerously across the canvas like some imperfectly domesticated beast. How a painter of this quality can have remained unknown is one of the major mysteries of modern art.

John Russell Taylor

Dance
Model of
character

Sleeping Beauty

Coliseum

London Festival Ballet opened its summer season at the London Coliseum on Tuesday with a performance of Rudolf Nureyev's sombre and magnificent production of *Sleeping Beauty*. First given by Festival Ballet in 1975, it still provides a real test for the strength of the company, both soloists and ensemble.

Tuesday night's Aurora won through with flying colours. Patricia Ruanne is now the company's senior classical ballerina and one of the many pleasures of watching her interpretation is to see just how carefully and in what detail she builds up the role.

In each act she brings out a different aspect of the character: youthful freshness in Act I, a warm romanticism in the vision scene, and mature grandeur for the last act *pas de deux*. Much of her interpretation is based on that of Fonteyn in the same role, and no English dancer could have a better model.

I especially liked the way in which the balances in the *Rose Adagio* were made part of the dance, rather than a circus trick, as is so often the case nowadays. Only some tension in her neck and shoulders marred what was otherwise a performance of a real quality, though the tempo for her variation in the vision scene was so slow that it destroyed the flow of the choreography and the music.

Born and trained in Sweden, Jonas Kage is now a member of the Zurich Ballet, though he has been an occasional guest with Festival Ballet for some years. Tall, good-looking and dazlingly blonde, he makes an excellent foil for Ruanne and is a good and very responsive partner.

On the whole he copes well with the intricate variations Nureyev has made for the hero, though it has to be said he looks his best in the traditional choreography of Act III, where his fine bearing and line are shown to advantage.

Jay Jolley and Andria Hall shone in the *Jewels pas de deux* in both their *pas de deux* roles, and Hall won the honours in the prologue divertissement. But on the whole the dancing of the rest of the cast was below the standard the company usually will doubtless see them back on form again.

Judith Cruickshank

Television
Humour and heart

Anyone who wants can make films these days, and in a year or two there will be virtually no barrier to those films being shown on television. Since the BBC's role will increasingly be to act as a repository of quality, its sponsorship of the competition for The Mick Burke Award (BBC 2) is highly appropriate. Six teams of amateurs were lent the equipment to film expeditions in six different wildernesses; last night we saw the results of three, and tonight we shall see the others.

First we went on foot through Alaska with a group of boys from the Grampian

region. Eskimos, they found, were "very warm people" toasting each other in blankets and gorging themselves on blubber. It was very much a boy's film, gassing voles, hiding squirrels on the head and dwelling with excited horror on appalling food, mosquito invasions and epicly blistered feet. The desolate tundra horizon receded rather jerkily at times but as one of the judges rightly observed, the film had humour and heart.

A group from Durham University went to the Great Sandy Desert of Western Australia, driving up and down sand dunes, mending punctures, and drinking water through green scum. The whole thing seemed quite hellish, but it was rendered down into the bored and wooden language of a laboratory experiment.

The third expedition, by dugout through the swamps of Botswana, was so beguiling at every moment that one tended to forget what it was the intrepid explorers were looking for. When finally sighted, the red letcher deer seemed worth the trip, but nothing could compare with the incidental marvel captured after a three-day vigil, of a pair of eagles delicately plucking fish from the water by their claws. The commentary was sure-footed, the camera where it should always be, in the hands of an aesthete.

Shot to pieces and confined to a wheelchair, a former Marine named Bob Muller made a memorably angry appearance in a documentary some twelve months ago. Last night he was back, but with tears of contrition in his



"Going Back": the child born with one hand

eyes. Whereas in *Heroes* (ATV, produced by David Munro) he had been railing at the American government's ingratitude towards those who had fought in Vietnam, in *Going Back* (Central, same producer) he and three colleagues revisited the country they had laboured so mightily to destroy and whose destruction, through America's economic blockade, still proceeds apace.

For Muller the visit was a shattering experience. On day one, he kept wanting to shoot people in the old enemy uniform. "I'm having

a nervous breakdown, my nerves are shot," he suddenly shouted during dinner on day four. After six days of smiling faces, loving arms, and the sight of oceans of smiling children caused by American bombs and defoliants, he and his friends were as though reborn. "I've had a rage inside of me," said one, repeatedly. "Today I felt my mind turn around." "You cried in Hanoi today, buddy," said another. "Today you felt a little something. Right, go back to America and put it in the political process." Right on.

Michael Church

Theatre

Britain's theatre of the disabled, the Graeae Company, have built their new performance on such lines. 3D as the production is called, starts discreetly as Yvonne Allen and Ellen Wilkie roll on in their wheelchairs and jag wheels on their disabilities. They explain their disabilities by beginning with the circumstances of their births and Miss Allen makes a sardonic point of the moment when doctors prescribed thalidomide to her mother, saving her bile for her descriptions of the later examinations when people tried to avoid their responsibility.

Eiane Roberts also makes a discreet entrance, only slowly revealing her blindness

through her narrative, and it is left to Deniz Bulli to swirl on in camp flamboyance, indicating that he has to create a splash since he is only partially sighted and cannot make eye contact. Nic Fine has directed the company to bring out their natural good humour and general optimism, revealed in such moments as Mr Plah's declaration about his spastic speech: "I bet when I first opened my mouth, you thought 'oh, no' and his understanding that he could not understand himself on television. The remarkable thing about the performance is the way it reveals the intimate aspects of the private lives.

Ned Chaillet

RPO/Masur

Festival Hall/Radio 3

Off to Mexico on tour today, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra took leave of London on Tuesday with a concert under Kurt Masur, a conductor of the German classics and romantics have won him greatest respect. Here he obliged with an infinitely vivid account of Mendelssohn's *Midsummer Night's Dream* overture, the breadth of full orchestra sound magically warm and lovely for the royalty and the lovers, with apt contrast for the "mechanicals" and for Puck and his like.

His symphony for the evening was Shostakovich's youthful elegiac first — such was the effect of the reading, in spite of spry, no-nonsense pace and accentuation in the quick music. Behind the high-spirited mockery of the brilliant young Bolshoi, there could already be discerned the Slav melancholy which Shostakovich took over from Tchaikovsky, and which obsessed his later works — though there are still jokes of sort in his gloomy last symphony.

After the interval Masur returned to home territory for Brahms's second piano concerto. He expounded its four spacious, wide-ranging movements to sensational structural admiration, the contrasts bold and yet all of a piece, the formal contours graphically moulded.

It was a sturdy, comprehensive basis for a serious account of the solo piano part, appropriate to the Brahms 5 flat, which is as much symphony as concerto, perhaps Brahms's modern equivalent of the older *sinfonie concertante* (he was keenest connoisseur of earlier music).

The soloist here was Cecile Ousset, who has recorded the work with Masur and his Leipzig orchestra. Conductor and pianist collaborated positively, though for all her big romantic piano technique her forte tone is harder and brighter than suits Brahms's piano-writing at its most outgoing (nearer to Rubinstein, one might say, that to Arrau), and in light, virtuosic music she was tempted to skate upon the surface of the myriad notes.

Her musical sensibility and exquisite command of nuance and colour in soft music repaid handsome rewards in the slow movement. (David Strangely played the cello solo coolly at first, leaving full eloquence for the reprise, a play which Brahms would have applauded), and often in the finale, indeed elsewhere.

Concerts

The performance, as a collaboration, was at full scale and enjoyable. The imperfections in Miss Ousset's playing will surely be conquered, even now largely condoned in a pianist so devoted and so personable to watch at work on the concert platform.

William Mann

Roth Quartet

Wigmore Hall

Somebody sitting nearby observed to his neighbour at Tuesday night's concert that Haydn's string quartets went in one ear and out the other so far as he was concerned, and I thought that must occasion some blank moments if he went to many quartet concerts. Especially with a work like the G major Quartet, Op 54 No 1, the first of the set Haydn wrote for the violinist Johann Tost; although the performance as

I heard it here was more than somewhat bland, as if the youthful members of the Roth Quartet were more concerned with cordiality than character.

They are, I believe, a relatively new ensemble who have arrived in the wake of the remarkably fine recent crop of string quartet groups in Britain. Information about their background was sparse at this first London engagement, apart from the fact that they were all students of Nicholas Roth, from whom they take their collective name. But it would seem that they have not performed in public together for more than a year or two. If that is the case there is still time for them to acquire a musical personality in performance that is more than the sum of their individual talents.

Their capacities were taxed by the demands of the Quartet No 4 by Shostakovich, of which the first movement should convey a more sustained intensity within its brief span, so as, not to sound like an intro-

duction alone, as it did here, though not to the degree that took the slow movement to another extreme and gave its passionate climax a touch of unwanted hysteria.

The dance of despair in the finale, brought about by his overly Jewish theme and the earnest compassionate feelings at the time (1949), suggested what the players could achieve in the way of pointed rhythms and fervent ensemble declamation.

With the B flat Quartet, Op 67, by Brahms the performance came together in time for the second movement Andante, bringing a sweetly drawn line from Duncan Riddell's first violin, which had the best of the melody. The following Agitato movement aroused admiration yet again for the ingenuity with which the viola, well played here by Elizabeth Turnbull, is given the leading role not only by having the other instruments muted but by the skilful writing in practically every bar.

Noël Goodwin

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Stock Exchange Prices

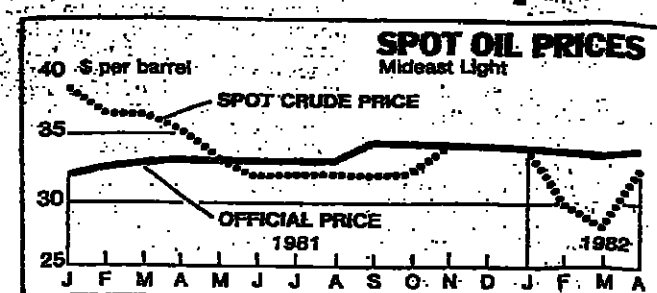
Equities advance

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, April 19. Dealings End, Today. § Contango Day, April 30. Settlement Day, May 10.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

[illegible]

BUSINESS NEWS

Market cheers Opec



To the satisfaction of leaders of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, prices of oil on the "spot" market have risen significantly in the past few weeks. Cargoes of Arabian light crude oil have risen from \$28 a barrel to \$32.50 a barrel since last month, although this is still below the official contract price of \$34 a barrel. North Sea oil has also risen on the spot market, from below \$30 a barrel to \$35 a barrel — which is \$4 a barrel above the official price. The rise reflects Opec's production cuts and the political situation in the Middle East.

City editor to step down

Mr Patrick Sergeant, city editor of the *Daily Mail* for more than 22 years is planning to leave his post but will continue to write for the paper. Mr Sergeant is the highest paid director of Associated Newspapers, earning £256,000 last year. No decision has been taken on a successor although Mr Kenneth Fleet, city editor of the *Sunday Express*, is believed to have been involved in talks.

Oilfields 'will go ahead'

Development of the "T Block" complex of North Sea fields postponed because of falling oil prices and high North Sea taxes, will go ahead eventually, Mr Hector Watt, managing director of Lamsco, a partner in the field, said yesterday. "There is no doubt it is going to be developed, but what we are talking about is the timing," he added. Phillips Petroleum, the field operator, has cancelled initial design contracts and is studying cheaper production methods.

Construction orders decline

New construction orders fell by a further 4 per cent in the three months to February 1982 compared with the same period last year, the Department of the Environment said yesterday. The level was unchanged in comparison with the previous quarter's figures. The largest fall in new orders came from the public works sector which dipped 21 per cent while public housing rose by 78 per cent over the same period of a year ago.

Waiver move

Sketchley, bidding for Means Services, the United States rental business, has waived that its \$33 (£18.75) a share offer be conditional on Means tendering no less than 50.4 per cent of its shares due to the counter offer at \$37 from ARA Services.

MARKET SUMMARY

BAT shares leap 37p

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 575.3 up 5.1
FT 100 67.70 down 0.02
FT All Share 329.39 up 1.51
Bargains 15,267

BAT, the tobacco dealers, brought a ray of sunshine to the stock market when it unveiled profits well above the most optimistic forecasts up 43 per cent at £88m, with the shares leaping 37p to 460p.

Elsewhere a healthy crop of trading news lifted the FT index to a 5.1 rise to 575.3 its highest level since early February, with the weight of institutional funds set to go into the equity market continuing to mount.

To bin and nervous trading condition besetting equities continues to be a feature of the gilt market as well where the strength of sterling saw modest gains of up to 5 pence across the board.

Blue Circle produced final profits falling somewhat short of expectations but it failed to effect the shares, up 6p at 468p. Ahead of trading news today ICI put on 2p at 322p while Marks & Spencer gained 3p at 161p.

WH Smith celebrated a 31 per cent profits jump with a 10p gain to 165p while laboratory supplies group Whitman Rees Angel responded to more than tripled earnings leaping 35p to 293p.

The long awaited bid from S Pearson for Pearson Longman duly appeared, leaving S Pearson off 11p at 236p and Pearson Longman 1p firmer at 237p.

COMMODITIES

Prices on the International Petroleum Exchanges bounced back again yesterday. With only a few days to run, the April contract rose £11 to £307 a tonne. But May closed at £296, up £3, partly reflecting more Falkland Islands tension. Dealers also feel Opec may have been successful in restraining oil output.

Other softs were quiet, with the exception of cocoa. April added £32 to £988 as the contract began to expire. But May also rose, closing at £988 a tonne compared with £976. Amid light trade and commission house business, soyabean oil futures slipped by both \$1 and \$4.25 a tonne.

Metals did not respond to the possibility of more fighting in the South Atlantic. Copper was virtually unchanged, although it did show some movement. Cash metal was £33 higher at £7,185 a tonne and three months closed £20 up at £7,362.

TODAY

Interims: Aberdeen Trust, A. Aronson, Audio Fidelity, Ben Bailey Construction, Hoover (1st qtr), ICI (first qtr figs) S. Simpson, United Wire.

Finals: Henry Boot, BSG Intl., De Vere Hotels, Downhills, Flight Refuelling, Highcroft Inv., Holyrood Rubber, Hongkong (Selangor) Rubber, Hongkong (Selangor) Rubber, Kula (Selangor) Rubber, Marks and Spencer, Moss B., Office and Electronic Machines, George Wimpey, Yule Gatto.

Economic Statistics: Energy Trends.

Threat to stability of international finance

Argentina's debt spurs loan fears

From Bailey Morris, Washington, April 28.

As concern over Argentina's debt grows, political and economic leaders in the United States are beginning to question the unchallenged ability of large banks to make marginal loans which threaten the stability of the international lending system.

The fragility of Argentina's economy and its dependence on continued lines of credit from private banks underscores the influence on the world economy of a few, interested financial institutions, these critics contend. Some influential members of Congress, including Mr Henry Reuss, chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, want to hold hearings on the ability of banks to make large international loans to determine if a world economic crisis is developing.

If Argentina goes into default on the heels of Poland's inability to repay its debt and fears that Romania will follow, it could trigger a financial crisis of undetermined proportions, some political and economic leaders believe.

Mr Albert G Hart, Professor of Economics at Columbia University, raised this possibility in the *New York Times*.

"Not since the days of John Law has the world economy depended so heavily on new, untested and rashly managed financial institutions and practices," Mr Hart said.

He advocated new policies governing the lending practices of big banks which make huge loans to financial shaky countries such as Argentina and continue to arrange rollovers of these loans when the countries are unable to repay the debt.

"The fallibility of big bankers has been illustrated by their allowing unsustainable debts to pile up, as in Argentina, thus postponing rather than obviating the need to shape a permanently viable financial structure."

The financial practices of the big banks have come under attack for political and economic reasons.

German banks evade limit

From Peter Norman, Bonn, April 28

A number of large West German banks have been using subsidiaries at home and abroad on an increasing scale to circumvent the strict prudential controls intended to limit a bank's overall lending to 18 times its paid up capital and open reserves.

Hitherto unpublished figures show that at the end of 1981 17 of West Germany's largest banks had lent DM54,000m (£12,980m) more than would have been possible if capital ratios were applied by law to the consolidated accounts of the parent banks and their wholly-owned and nearly wholly-owned subsidiaries.

The figures give the first insight into how the banks are getting round the spirit of official regulations and a gentleman's agreement reached last summer between the German federal bank (the Bundesbank). The banking supervisory office in West Berlin said 31 of the country's largest banks. After much arm twisting, the 31 mainly private sector banks agreed to supply the authorities with consolidated accounts each quarter from September 30 last year to enable them to see how far total lending was related to the banks' capital resources.

The consolidated figures show that at the end of 1981 17 banks had granted credits in excess of the 18 times capital and reserves available to them and the subsidiaries covered in the gentleman's agreement. Nine banks had exceeded their national credit limit by between 10 and 50 per cent.

The gentleman's agreement reflected growing concern by the West German authorities about current banking risks, particularly in international lending. The end-December figures show a worsening of the situation compared with September 30, when the banks sent their first set of figures to the authorities.

The authorities can now be expected to step up pressure for legislation to make consolidated accounts the compulsory basis for West Germany's prudential controls. At present West Germany is behind other European countries like Switzerland and Holland which have tough prudential controls on bank lending.

Bankamerica "expects to be further buffeted by the global and domestic recession," Mr Leland S Prussia, chairman, said in San Francisco at the annual meeting.

Barclays Bank spelt out its opposition to apartheid at yesterday's annual meeting in response to persistent critical questioning on the bank's involvement in South Africa. However Mr Timothy Bevan, chairman, restated the view that Barclays would do more good by staying in South Africa than by pulling out.

Boost for invisible exports

By Our Financial Staff

The United Kingdom's invisible export earnings should be helped this year by an estimated growth of 5 to 6 per cent in the net earnings of seven leading service industries.

In its annual survey the Commission on Invisible Exports says that it also expects gross receipts from inward tourism to rise by 3 per cent in real terms. The monetary volume of world invisible trade is expected to rise in some sectors, but only in banking is the increase expected to exceed inflation.

Slight gains in the United Kingdom's share of world markets are expected in all except the aviation and shipping sectors. The overall increase in earnings for the insurance sector is put at 3 to 4 per cent, and about 5 per cent for brokers.

Among the London clearing banks the weighted average expected increase is 13 per cent. For the Accepting Houses, the figure averages 10 per cent.

The volume of overseas business won by the banks is expected to grow sharply, with North America and South East Asia seen as favoured areas for expanding loan business. British banks also expect to increase their share of international banking business.

Savoy 'ready for' Forte takeover fight

By Philip Robinson

The Savoy Hotel group headed by Sir Hugh Wootton announced yesterday that he would be back making profits this year and was prepared to fight off any further takeover attempt by Trusthouse Forte hotel chain.

Lord Forte is free to mount a second takeover bid on June 19. That is a year after his first £67m bid failed to win control, but left his group holding 66.25 per cent of the 'A' non-voting shares.

He has vowed to return, but Mr Eric Hartwell, Trusthouse joint chief executive refused to discuss the company's plans last night.

Savoy denies that it has been in merger talks with the hotel company, but Mr Giles Sheppard, Managing director, said: "One always has to be prepared. It's an unpleasant situation when someone holds a large block of shares and makes no use of them that they want to own you."

The group points out that directors, family and friends still hold more than 50 per cent of the vital B class of voting shares.

At the time Trusthouse was bidding, the Savoy, which includes the Berkeley, Claridge's and St James's in the Strand, was making heavy losses. But in September last year as the pound

Sir Hugh Wootton

dropped in value against the dollar, American visitors began to return and Savoy says it made £1.6m pre-tax profit in 1981.

On total income, up £2m to £30m for the 12 months to the end of last December, Savoy cut its pre-tax loss from £1.7m to £504,000. The £7m it received from Lord Forte by selling it the east block for flats and offices has been used to clean the balance sheet and should cut debt charges in the current year by £1m. Last year interest charges rose from £1.2m to £1.3m.

Savoy is paying an unchanged gross dividend on the B shares of 0.8207p and on A of 1.6414p.

Manufacturing suffers worst effect of recession

Two million jobs lost since 1979

By Frances Williams

More than two million jobs have been lost in British industry since the recession began in mid-1979, according to latest official figures.

Three-fifths of the jobs lost were in manufacturing, although this sector accounts for only a quarter of total employment.

But the fall in employment has not been fully reflected in higher registered unemployment, which went up by 1½ million over the same period — some ½ million less. Many workers, especially married women who do not qualify for unemployment benefit, have simply not bothered to sign on.

The Department of Employment's *Gazette*, published yesterday, reveals that total employment fell by 9 per cent between June 1979 and December 1981 from 22.4 million to 20.3 million.

Jobs in manufacturing fell by 18½ per cent or 1.3 million. The service sector, after 10 years of almost continuous growth, lost 500,000 jobs, about 4 per cent — over the two years to end-1981.

The number of people in employment in Britain is now at its lowest since 1952, despite a big increase in the population of working age.

The figures do, however, show that industry is shedding jobs at a slower rate. Total employment fell by 193,000 in the final quarter of 1981, after seasonal adjustment, a little more than the 184,000 drop in the third quarter, but well below the falls of 300,000 in each of the two previous quarters.

In the manufacturing sector, for which more recent figures are available, employment fell by a seasonally

Setback for Rolls-Royce aero-engines sell-off

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent



Lord McFadzean: caution on privatization hopes

Government hopes of returning the state-owned Rolls-Royce aero-engine maker to the private sector took a further knock yesterday when the chairman Lord McFadzean told MPs the privatization depended upon the British Government matching the aid provided for the company's United States competitors.

At the same time, Lord McFadzean told the Commons Select Committee on Industry and Trade that Lockheed's decision to phase out production of the TriStar jetliner could cost the British company between £50m and £70m in lost profits by the late 1980s.

The chairman's comments on Rolls-Royce's future profitability and its potential attractiveness to private investors comes after statements to the committee in February by Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, indicating that the Government did not consider a public sale of Rolls-Royce to be feasible for the next two or three years.

Lord McFadzean said that Rolls-Royce's United States competitors, Pratt and Whitney and General Electric,

Rolls-Royce, which was taken into state ownership after its collapse 11 years ago, made a net loss of £5m in 1981 compared with a loss of £27m in 1980 and is planning to break even next year. The Government announced this week that the company would receive an additional £50m in equity capital and £57m in launch aid this year.

Yesterday, Lord McFadzean was reluctant to predict when the company would return to profitability, much depended on the state of the aircraft market and the success of the company in winning new orders. However, he was confident that the company would win business in the late 1980s from civil aircraft manufacturers as the result of the retirement of an estimated 3,000 older airliners, mostly 707s, DC8s and 737-100s.

He forecast that Rolls-Royce would be making profits by next year from sales of the RB 211-22B engine which powers the TriStar — but would require "considerable development aid" for the 524 and 535 derivatives in the next five or six years.

received a great deal of money from the United States government "and if we are able to receive the same assistance then privatization would be a possibility but it would be fairly far down the road because of the lack of profitability over the last five years. Who would buy Rolls-Royce at the moment?"

He estimated that the American companies were spending up to 2½ times the amount Rolls-Royce invested in advanced engineering and research.

Tax threat to US companies

By Lorna Bourke

American companies operating in Britain have been threatened with taxes on profits they make anywhere else in the world. This would be retaliation for similar taxes in some parts of the United States.

Mr Michael Grylls, chairman of the Conservative back-bench industry committee, is proposing the measures because 13 American states impose such taxation and two more are considering similar action. He expects amendments to be made to the Finance Bill now going through Parliament.

Mr Grylls said: "Our patience is running out and there is increasing pressure to take retaliatory action." He expects amendments to be made to the Finance Bill now going through Parliament.

Some 60 British companies have banded together to fight the imposition of worldwide taxation, led by BATs, Bowater and EMI. "There are a lot of people who feel very strongly and I expect amendments will be tabled in the next few weeks," Mr Grylls said.

The system has operated in five American states for more than two years and the total has now reached 13. Companies are taxed on profits made anywhere in the United States or the rest of the world. Multinationals see this as double taxation.

The most recent double-taxation treaty between Britain and the United States was ratified in March 1980 and made no provision for relief for British companies in those states which apply unitary taxation on worldwide profits.

Mr Grylls and others made known their reservations concerning this omission but were assured that negotiations were taking place with the United States to rectify the situation. Since then there has been virtually no progress.

Harland gets £47.6m Whitehall handout

By Rupert Morris

Harland and Wolff, the loss-making Belfast shipbuilder, is to receive £47.6m of Government money in this financial year, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, announced yesterday.

The yard has received £216m in special assistance since it was nationalized in 1975. It employs nearly 7,000 people in West Belfast — an area highly sensitive to threats of job losses.

Already more than 4,500 jobs have been put in jeopardy by the financial collapse of the De Lorean car company, now in the hands of the Official Receiver.

Dr Vivian Wadsworth, Harland and Wolff chairman, has warned of up to 1,000 redundancies this year if orders do not improve dramatically.

The announcement is certain to be received with scepticism among Conservative back-benchers who are anxious to see an end to taxpayers' support of nationalized industries.

Mr Prior said yesterday in Commons answers to a question that the company will take all steps necessary to reduce its operating costs and improve efficiency. It must also demonstrate that this continued level of support is justified by increasing competitiveness so that the heavy burden on public funds can be progressively reduced."

He is to meet national trade union representatives next week, and last night Mr Alex Ferry, general secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, said: "We accept that there's overcapacity in Harland and Wolff, but we will oppose any job losses."

The company's book is clearly inadequate, with a 170,000 tonne deadweight bulk carrier for British Steel, authorized by the Government, only taking the total up to five ships. The shipyard is working full time at the moment, but there has been short-time working in the engine plant in recent weeks.

Mr Michael Grylls, chairman of the Conservative back-bench industry committee, said last night: "This latest handout is not creating any more jobs and shows a lack of discipline in trying to phase out the taxpayer's commitment."

Insider deal charges

By Our Financial Staff

A married couple were sent for trial to Croydon Crown Court by Croydon magistrates yesterday on charges under the Companies Act of 1980.

They are John William Titheridge and Joyce Titheridge of Warren Road, Sidcup. Mr Titheridge is accused of obtaining information from his wife and, knowing it to be unpublished price-sensitive information relating to the shares of Joseph Stocks

and Son, (Holdings), he bought 12,500 ordinary shares in that company.

His wife is charged with counselling or procuring her husband to deal in securities knowing or having reasonable cause to believe he would deal with them on the Stock Exchange.

This is the first prosecution of its kind brought in under the Act, although there has been one in Scotland.

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Preliminary Statement

The profit is stated after providing for rebate, taxation, and all expenses (and in 1981 after transfer to reserve for contingencies):

	1981/82	1980/81
Net profit	£ 344,498	£ 1,115,721
Ordinary dividends		
Interim paid	230,824	230,824
Final proposed	428,673	428,673
Balance carried forward on profit and loss account	692,014	1,007,013

The proposed final dividend is 3.25 pence per share making a total net distribution of 5.0 pence per share (1981 same).

The annual general meeting will be held on Wednesday, 9th June 1982 at 4.00 p.m.

The proposed final dividend will be paid on 10th June 1982 to all shareholders on the register at 13th May 1982.

	5th April 1982	5th April 1981
Capital and published reserves	£ 5,959,497	£ 6,304,496
Loans and deposits etc.	263,525,347	264,480,361
	£269,514,844	£270,784,857
Cash at bank and amounts receivable	£ 3,617,784	£ 703,920
British Government Treasury bills	1,618,070	29,214,289
Commercial bills — sterling	195,751,374	122,058,522
Sterling certificates of deposit	38,291,788	18,898,817
U.S. dollar loans and deposits	—	23,244,162
British Government and corporation securities, local authority bonds and other investments — Listed:	10,483,215	57,044,399
Unlisted:	19,772,813	19,802,748
	£269,514,844	£270,784,857

Ed Paso Nat Gas	30%	26%	Fan Am	3%	1%	lat Pipe		
Equitable Life	9%	8%	Pennsy J. C.	38	34	Mann-Forgan	74	74
Esmark	49%	49%	Pennmont	41	39	Royal Trust	24	24
Bruce P. D.	104	114	Papacolo	38	38%	Sagam	24	24
Exxon Corp.	28%	28%	Pfizer	38	38	Steel Co.	24%	24%
Fed Dept Stores	43%	43%	Phelps Dodge	35%	35%	Thompson N A	19%	19%
Firestone	10%	10%	Phillip Morris	32%	31%	Walker Hiram	19%	19%
						WCT	12%	12%

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

INTERNATIONAL



JAPAN

Widening in trade surplus gap

Japan's visible trade surplus in the fiscal year 1981, ended last month, widened sharply to \$20,480m (£11,536) from a \$6,770m surplus a year earlier, the Finance Ministry said.

Exports rose 10.9 per cent to \$149,590m, while FOB imports rose 0.7 per cent to \$129,120m.

Overall balance of payments deficit in fiscal 1981 stood at \$7,360m against a \$380m deficit a year earlier. The current account balance turned into a \$3,950m surplus from a \$7,010m deficit.

Mr Douglas Fraser, United Auto Workers president, citing "horrendous" rates of unemployment among United States car workers, said yesterday in Tokyo the Japanese industry must "put jobs where their sales are". He also told the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan that General Motors' new small-model cars were a "gigantic miscalculation."

Export contracts concluded by Japan's 13 main trading companies went up a British 27.4 per cent in March from a year before, mainly because of a surge in contracts for plant shipments to oil-producing countries, the Japan Foreign Trade Council announced yesterday.

Import contracts climbed a healthy 17.3 per cent in the month.

The Tokyo Government will work out a new five-year economic and social programme for 1983-87, aiming at a lower average annual economic growth rate than the 5.1 per cent set under the present five-year programme for 1979-85.

FRANCE

The National Statistics Institute, the state-run data gathering agency, yesterday said in its monthly survey of 3,000 heads of industry in France that production had stagnated in April and had now spread to all sectors including industries producing consumer goods, which up to now had remained buoyant.

The survey said that industrialists involved in producing capital feared a slowdown in their output levels in the next few months because of flagging demand from the domestic and export markets.

Industrialised countries should create more favorable conditions for coal consumption as a cheap alternative to oil, the International Energy Agency in Paris urged yesterday after a two-year study of the industrial use of coal in the 24-member nations of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

AUSTRALIA

Australia's March level of production by the manufacturing industry was higher than that during February for 14 of the 28 key items for which seasonally adjusted figures are compiled.

Despite a fairly stagnant overall picture, the Statistics Bureau reported significant increases for raw steel (up 22 per cent to 643,000 metric tonnes), and cars (up 16.8 per cent to 35,100 units). Import decreases were in the domestic appliance group with a 11 per cent drop in down 11 per cent, refrigerators 18.5 per cent and washing machines 7.5 per cent.

A test of the Amadeus Basin exploration well East Mercedine 6 in Australia's northern territory flowed oil at 320 barrels a day. The flow was from the 4,815 to 4,903 feet sector and the well is now preparing to drill ahead at 4,903 feet.

SWEDEN

The Swedish government has revised its 1982-83 fiscal budget deficit forecast downwards to Kr75,700m (£7,082m) from Kr82,600m shortfall projected in January. The country's net foreign borrowing is expected to account for Kr12,000m and Kr14,000m.

NETHERLANDS

The Dutch seasonally adjusted index of industrial orders in hand, base January 1978, rose to 98 in March from 97 in February, the Central Statistics Office said.

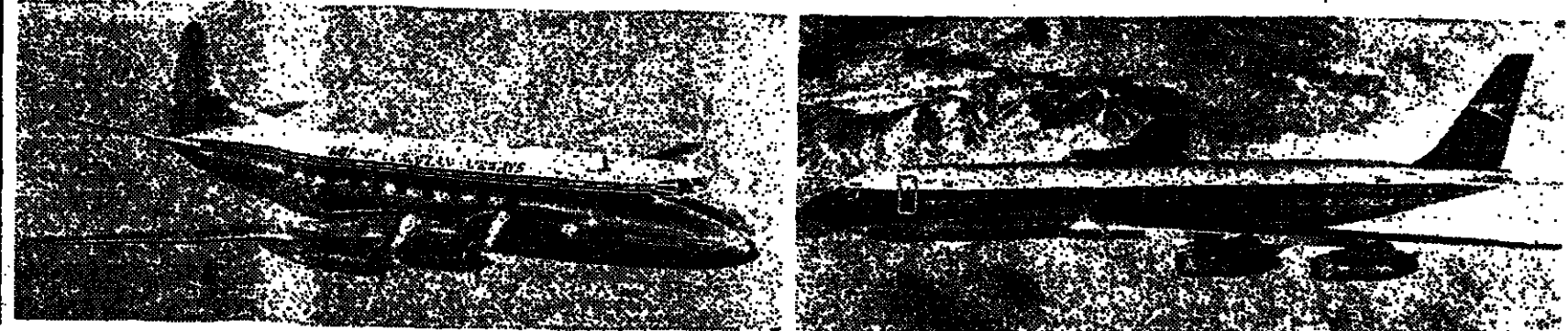
The index stood at 90 in March last year. The office said its latest survey of industry showed industrial activity was steady in March and no change is expected for the next three months.

SINGAPORE

The trade deficit widened 1,502 million Singapore dollars (£395m) in March from \$1,165m a year earlier and \$1,290m in February, on preliminary calculations. Imports rose 12 per cent to \$5,473m while exports rose only 6 per cent, to \$3,971m.

In the quarter, the deficit widened to \$4,575m from \$3,244m a year earlier.

British Airways: Sir John prepares for take-off



Sir John King, British Airways chairman, announced a major new structural plan yesterday which involves splitting the ailing state airline into "profit centres". BA moles have been campaigning to have the airline returned to its constituent parts — British Overseas Airways Corporation and British European Airways — and will hail the announcement as a victory. Sir John is preparing the airline, which will lose as much as £250m in 1981-82, for privatization.

Arthur Reed reports

at up to £105m, is high, but is seen by Sir John and his executive Roy Watts as an investment in both efficiency and profits for the future. But even at 42,000 BA is still overmanned compared with most of its major American competitors. Further redundancies can be expected and the airline is likely to finish up with 35,000 workers — which would make it very competitive.



What is seen as a lack of loyalty and motivation among some of those who remain is now to be attacked by Sir John by splitting the airline into a number of profit centres each with its own managing director, easily identifiable by his own staff. Each of these divisions will be given tough financial targets, and the jobs of the managing directors may depend on their being met.

Within this ruthless commercial environment, the divisions will have a lot of scope for decisions making including recommending to the main board the sort of new airlines which they would like — and not like. They will buy services such as catering and engineering from the group, and will even be allowed to go outside the airline for such services if not satisfied with the price or quality on offer from within.

Whether a BA division would ever be allowed to buy its maintenance services from, say Air France is doubtful, but the threat of such a switch is an obvious spur to BA's employees. Only recently the airline contracted out some of its flight catering to a subsidiary of the Scandinavian airline SAS, so saving itself £3m a year.

Sir John King took his idea of profit centres from the private industry sector and in particular his own giant engineering group Babcock and Wilcox and Marks and Spencer whose high street shops he cites glowingly as

ideal examples. He is in the forefront of those who believe that the scheme should have been introduced at the time of the merger, rather than after a decade of disaffection and disputes between staff and management and in recent years, horrendous losses — £140m in 1980-81, and as much as £250m in 1981-82 when the redundancy payments are accounted for.

Splitting the airline in what appears to be a series of mini-airlines will, or so Sir John's philosophy runs, restore interest and pride in the airline among the staff, and give a much harder edge to competitiveness. BA's "moles", members of middle management who, for the past 18 months or more, have been carrying out a clandestine campaign to have BA returned to BOAC and BEA, are presumably joyful at Sir John's decisions.

But the chairman of the airline has some justification in denying hotly that his action is a return to the pre-1970 situation — although the loyalties which he expects to be engendered in the future are those which marked out the two old companies.

The new structure appears to be a sensible halfway house between splitting back into separate airlines which was never a serious possibility, and the monolithic structure into which BA ossified.

Having introduced stages one and two of his survival plan, Sir John is spurring staff that there could be a

stage three if the anticipated financial turnaround does not happen. But the feeling within the industry is that the medicine now prescribed should bring the patient round, and the chairman will now devote much of his time planning to fulfil the central theme of his brief from Downing Street — to move BA out of the public and into the private sector.

It is a path to which he is totally committed seeing BA as a company which lives in a hard competitive world and evincing no reason why the British taxpayer should be called on to make good the airline's losses.

But to make BA attractive to private investment as was British Aerospace when it went to the market, he has to have profits and the promise of financial security in the future. An easy way out in the short term would be to sell some of the more successful BA subsidiaries such as International Aeradio whose activities include making aviation electronic equipment and training air traffic controllers, and British Airways Helicopters which services the North Sea oil industry, from its base at Gatwick.

Meanwhile, the group continues to expand its new Astral Sportswear chain, is making more use of the Harrods name and has started to make more of the financial services it has to offer. But the market was unimpressed with yesterday's results as the shares slipped 2p to 156p — and Fraser must remain vulnerable until the benefits of the present management exercise start to come through in the form of rising profits.

Business Editor
Fraser looking over its shoulder

According to Professor Roland Smith, part-time chairman of House of Fraser, the two London representatives on the Fraser's board made several positive contributions at yesterday's meeting.

The Professor did not go into details, but it left the City wondering why Britain's largest stores group lifted the final dividend eight per cent despite lower pre-tax profits, including a 20 per cent decline in the important second half.

Fraser points out that the payment is more than twice covered at least on a historic cost basis. But it must presumably feel itself under pressure from Lomro (with its near 30 per cent shareholding) as the latter turns its attention to persuading the Department of Trade that its objections to a takeover have now been largely overcome.

For the 52 weeks to January 30 Fraser's sales rose 6 per cent to £826m while trading profit dipped from £46.5m to £34.9m, the third consecutive fall. However, lower financing costs and a sharp fall in the tax charge (from £10m to £3.3m) has left earnings per share unchanged at 16.3p.

Although the group does not break down the profits figures, it is reckoned that as much as half now comes from the Knightsbridge store Harrods. The provincial chains, such as Binns, and the Scottish operation probably account for much of the remainder.

The directors have said their first objective is to improve the profitability of the traditional department store business, and it seems likely that more of the stores will come under review this year.

Meanwhile, the group continues to expand its new Astral Sportswear chain, is making more use of the Harrods name and has started to make more of the financial services it has to offer. But the market was unimpressed with yesterday's results as the shares slipped 2p to 156p — and Fraser must remain vulnerable until the benefits of the present management exercise start to come through in the form of rising profits.

S Pearson Strategy

This time S Pearson has handled the purchase of the 36.4 per cent of Pearson Longman not already owned in a sensible fashion; and so it had to alter the embarrassing contraptions with PL institutional shareholders which looked a deal four years ago.

The terms are reasonable, there is a cash alternative, and also thrown in is a profit forecast of sorts (Pearson in 1982).

A merger will enable the group to expand without incurring conflicts of interest, and while tax advantages will accrue with S Pearson as the 100 per cent owner. Moreover, now that PL has gearing following its investment programme, it did not make sense to have the whole of PL debt on Pearsons books and only 63.6 per cent of the equity.

But if the financial structure looks neater, the 1981 figures from both companies have a curate's egg look about them. The Financial Times profit rose from £2.12m to £3.26m with the Frankfurt operation contributing at last. It remains to be seen how great a threat the planned launch of a European edition of the Wall Street Journal will prove. However, Westminster Press fared less well due to the recession in job advertising. Although Doulton's profits dipped sharply, the Fairway acquisition is at last proving its worth.

Building socs
Safe as houses?

The building societies have now fallen into line with many other consumer groups, from banks to tour companies, and produced a formal industry funding scheme to protect depositors in the event of trouble.

There has, of course, been no recent case of building society savers having to suffer loss in the event of problems arising. In the case of minor troubles, societies have usually been tucked safely under the wing of larger brethren, as much as anything to maintain confidence. In the case of Grays, where a serious deficiency arose, the Woolwich took

Pearson's strategy for the next 10 years must depend heavily on electronic publishing, video, cable and satellite television, as well as expansion in the high quality education market in the United States.

In order to achieve this strategy, it would be no surprise if the group disposed of some inessential bits of the business, and concentrated its sights upon the new technology of the "global village" and the thirst for knowledge in developing countries.

Bankers starting to 'think small'

PERSPECTIVE: MERCHANT BANKING

By Sally White



The move towards centralization in merchant banking where over the last 150 years the vast majority of groups have concentrated in the City of London has left a substantial gap. There are signs that the situation may be changing.

alternative to the famous clearing bank or merchant banking names is generating new independent regional merchant banks. But the greatest incentive is coming with the Government's efforts through provision of funds and tax concessions to create new small companies. Local financial groups, are obvious middle-men to introduce the entrepreneurs to the investment money.

Noble Grossart in Edinburgh was set up by Mr Angus Grossart, who came from the Scottish bar, in 1969 and has now developed far south of the border and overseas as well. Darlington however seeks to emulate the policies of East Anglian Securities based in Norwich.

Doubts are voiced by Mr Grossart as to whether provincial banks could develop as grandly as Grossart because Edinburgh is a major financial centre. Edinburgh has also been an expanding financial centre because of North Sea oil. Against that background Noble Grossart has been able to attract such corporate clients as James Gulliver of Alpine Holdings

Wise Speke in Newcastle, Stock Beach in Bristol, Parsons in Glasgow, Albert E Sharp in Birmingham and Henry Cooke, Lumsden in Manchester — are all servicing new and established companies in their local financial communities. At the end of the bumpy ride they will find, he asserts, "cleaner aeroplanes, more punctual aeroplanes, acceptable food, good services — and all at a very competitive price".

Talented individuals are the vital factor, according to Mr James Ferguson of the major Scottish based investment group, Stewart Fund Managers, who have a 40 per cent stake in East Anglian. "I think that there is a case for East Anglian, but I am not convinced that there is generally a case for small merchant banks to be based all over the country. On the other hand there are opportunities for talented individuals," he said.

What Darlington and East Anglian have in common is founders who wanted to do business locally, and wanted to be entrepreneurs themselves. "We aim to give a personal service," is Mr Johnstone's theme — so with all Darlington's and East Anglian's services. Staff in national groups are often switched around — so that even in a High Street branch the man behind the desk could be no less of a stranger than the one in the City. The aim is to save the businessman's time by being on the doorstep, to know his track record and financial credibility; as well as what his business needs and to take the formality out of discussions on complicated financial technicalities. And a chat with that top man to discuss all financial worries is simple to arrange.

That in both Darlington and East Anglian's cases includes the personal and company investment area as well as corporate finance. East Anglian, with present capital at £1m has been going since the mid-1970s. Mr William Jacob is currently the managing director there, the original founders having moved on. "We believe that there is a gap in the market between the very small and the medium-sized company — the company looking for something between £50,000 and £1m — becoming too expensive for the City. There needs to be another nought on the end."

More small banks will undoubtedly emerge now that there are so many incentives for professional financial employees to seek a stake in the equity of their own companies, while themselves helping to set up new entrepreneurs.

WHISMITH
WH Smith & Son (Holdings) PLC

Results 1981/1982

	1981/82 £million	1980/81 £million
TURNOVER	773.0	681.1
TRADING PROFIT	23.3	18.9
Net interest payable	2.2	2.8
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	21.1	16.1
Taxation	8.4	5.7
PROFIT AFTER TAX	12.7	10.4
Extraordinary items - loss	4.0	1.0
NET PROFIT	8.7	9.4

	per 50p share
Earnings before extraordinary items	14.9p
Dividend for the year	5.25p
* TURNOVER UP	13.5%
* PROFIT BEFORE TAX UP	31.2%
* CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	£16.4 million
* DIVIDEND INCREASE	14.1%

For copies of our Annual Report and Accounts and the Staff Report please write to the Company Secretary at Strand House, 10 New Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1AD on or after 20 May 1982.

De Beers:

The long-range outlook judged from the consumer market gives good reason for optimism

Extracts from Mr H F Oppenheimer's Statement on De Beers in 1981

The recession in the diamond industry which began in the middle of 1980 continued and deepened throughout 1981 and the end is not in sight. Sales by the Central Selling Organisation (CSO) fell, measured in Rand, by 42 per cent to R1 249 million and, measured in US Dollars, by 46 per cent to \$1 472 million and the Group's net profits, excluding its share of the retained profits of associates, fell by 46 per cent from R668 million to R364 million. Stocks of diamonds increased during the year by R705 million to R1 403 million. Sales to the market this year have been running at higher levels in dollar terms than in the second half of last year but a further increase in diamond stocks is anticipated during the year. In these circumstances the Board concluded with great regret that prudence required a reduction in the final dividend from 50 cents to 25 cents resulting in a total dividend of 75 cents (which was twice covered) as compared with 75 cents (covered 2.5 times) in 1980. The reduced dividend reflects both the continuance of the world recession and our determination to carry out our traditional stabilising role in the diamond world and that the Company has arranged facilities with its bankers made possible by the conservative dividend and sound investment policies of the past, which are ample for its requirements.

The fall off in the demand for diamonds is concentrated in the larger and finer qualities including in particular the so-called 'near gem' qualities in which speculation during the boom years was especially concentrated. These sizes and qualities normally account for a large proportion of the CSO's sales. Sales of the smaller sizes and lower qualities have generally speaking been satisfactory and the demand for diamond jewellery particularly, though not exclusively, at the lower end of the market has continued throughout at a high and encouraging level. The market for the rare and more expensive forms of jewellery is adversely affected to a much greater extent than the rest of the market by the unprecedented levels of speculation particularly in America. In previous statements I drew attention to the obvious dangers of speculation in the cutting centres at particular prices and on this account the recession in the diamond industry started sooner and is perhaps deeper than the world economic recession as a whole. This speculation was largely financed by bank credits and it is satisfactory to see that by now largely on account of the policy of withholding diamonds from sale when the market is depressed, the level of bank credit in the leading cutting centres has been substantially reduced, in some cases by as much as 50 per cent, and is now generally speaking at a reasonable level. This reduction strongly suggests that the special reasons which existed for the recession in the diamond industry are a fair way to being overcome and that the continuation of a low level of sales reflects adverse economic conditions in general to a greater extent than circumstances peculiar to the diamond industry. We cannot expect prosperous conditions in our industry at a time of world depression and in particular while interest rates remain at their present high level. However, any improvement in the world economy and in particular in business conditions in the United States should be rapidly reflected in the diamond industry.

'... any improvement in the world economy and in particular in business conditions in the United States should be rapidly reflected in the diamond industry'

In November of last year the CSO, in order to lay a sound basis for recovery as soon as general business conditions improve, made important modifications in the manner of presentation of diamonds to the market. The sales assortments were altered so as to allow our customers to fit their purchases more accurately to their individual requirements in the new market conditions. It is essential for any trading organisation to be alive and sensitive to changing needs and conditions and we are satisfied that the new selling arrangements we have introduced will help to preserve the value of diamonds and to protect the stability of the trade. The state of the market for those diamonds which are bought wholly or partly for investment is a matter of considerable significance, mainly from a psychological point of view since they have never made up a large proportion of the world-wide trade in polished diamonds. Diamonds have proved good investments over the years so long as they have been bought at prices

which bear a reasonable relationship to the level of rough diamond prices maintained and protected by the activities of the CSO. However, diamonds bought at high premium prices in times of speculative boom are obviously not likely to prove good investments. During the boom the prices of the so-called investment diamonds rose out of all control and at one time the price of top colour flawless brilliants of one carat weight which had acquired a quite unreasonable importance as a market leader and indicator rose to about \$65 000, a figure which had no relation whatever either to the cost of the rough from which such stones are manufactured or to the price which they could even in good times be expected to command as an item of jewellery. This particular description — the '1 carat D-flawless brilliant' — is only one of many classifications of polished diamonds of which minimal quantities are produced each year. The prices currently quoted for this particular article (and there must be some question as to the number of transactions actually concluded) are low in relation to the corresponding prices of rough. This would certainly suggest that although demand at the investment end of the market remains very restricted a sound psychological basis has been established for a resumption of growth in overall sales of rough diamonds as soon as economic conditions improve.

During 1981 production was reduced both in Namaqualand and at CDM and total mining expenditure excluding Jwaneng, the new mine in Botswana which started production at the beginning of this year at R513 million was less by R39 million than in 1980. Group production for 1982, excluding Jwaneng, has been further reduced and is estimated to amount to 13 794 000 carats as compared with 15 438 000 carats in 1981. In spite of this reduction working costs

'It is satisfactory to be able to report that consumers are continuing to react as favourably as ever to diamonds and to the traditions associated with them.'

(excluding Jwaneng) at R415 million are estimated to be higher by R55 million than last year, an indication of the rate of inflation. On the other hand we estimate it will be possible to reduce capital expenditure (excluding Jwaneng) to R119 million, a reduction of R34 million below the comparable 1981 figure so that the total expenditure at the mines is estimated to show a net increase of only R21 million as compared with last year.

We have thought it right, while making every effort to avoid waste, to make a significant increase in our expenditure on promotion and advertising and here there will be increased emphasis on the marketing of the larger, better quality diamonds. It is satisfactory to be able to report that consumers are continuing to react as favourably as ever to diamonds and to the traditions associated with them. It is estimated for example that in 1981, some 70 per cent of all first-time brides in America acquired a diamond engagement ring, and the ownership of diamonds by American women in general has been rising steadily to the extent that last year more than one in ten acquired a new piece of diamond jewellery. We are actively opening new consumer segments such as men's diamond jewellery. In the other leading markets, Japan and Germany, the corresponding figures have been rising towards the levels in the United States and the use of diamonds has also been increasing satisfactorily in the other European countries, in South East Asia and also in Latin America. Generally speaking, therefore, the long-range outlook judged from the consumer market gives good reason for optimism.

The general business recession was felt in the market for industrial diamonds also, but nevertheless total sales only declined slightly. Sales of natural industrials continued to lose ground in relation to synthetic products partly because of technical improvements in the synthetic field and the entry of new synthetic producers into the market and partly because of the fall off of production from Zaire. The new mine recently discovered in Australia to which I make reference below will in about three years' time become an important producer of industrial diamonds and we shall make every effort to develop the market in a way as to allow for the absorption on satisfactory terms of the output from this new source.

In the course of the year our long-standing agreement for the marketing of the production of the Milba mine in Zaire was terminated by the Government of that country. We naturally very much regret this development but its importance can easily be over estimated. Milba

production has decreased over some years and the prices obtained by the mine have recently declined with the result that the total realised value of this production is now under \$45 million per annum. While this is a significant figure it does not make up an important percentage of world diamond production.

The important discovery recently made in Western Australia by the Ashton Joint Venture (AJV) — the Argyle mine — will produce very large quantities of diamonds similar in quality to those produced in Zaire. Argyle will be a very big mine indeed with the highest recovery grade anywhere in the world. A major part of its production will consist of so-called 'near gem' qualities and 'industrials', and when the mine reaches full production its output of these qualities will make up more than half of the total produced in the world. Argyle's output of gem qualities, while significant, will amount to only a comparatively small proportion of world production. Production on a moderate scale from the gravels surrounding the mine is due to start in the second half of this year and production from the mine itself will probably begin in about three years' time. An agreement has been reached in principle between the CSO and the major partners in AJV in regard to the marketing of this potentially large and unusual production. It is intended that subject to AJV's right to extract diamonds on an agreed basis for the purpose of establishing their own cutting factory in Australia, the CSO should market the Argyle gem production on an exclusive basis and that the 'near gem' and industrial qualities should be marketed as to 75 per cent through the CSO and as to 25 per cent by the AJV directly, in recognition of its special position in this sector of the market. Details of an agreement along these lines are at present in the course of negotiation.

In spite of depressed conditions we are continuing prospecting activities on a large scale on the African continent and elsewhere, particularly in Australia and South America. The cluster of pipes on the farm Veneta in the Northern Transvaal to which I referred in my statement last year are being sampled through surface trenches and shafts and the ground treated in a heavy media separation plant. Much work remains to be done before a definite valuation of these deposits can be made. In South West Africa/Namibia prospecting inland along the Orange River has given very encouraging results. Application has been made in response to enquiries put out by the South African Government for prospecting rights for diamonds offshore at various locations along the Namaqualand coast.

'We are well equipped to see through what may yet remain to be faced of this time of depression and to take full advantage of better economic conditions when they return.'

Our investments outside the diamond industry were valued at the year-end at just over R3 000 million. Two important changes have been made in their composition: in the course of last year we exchanged our holdings in Consolidated Gold Fields (Congold) and in Anglo American Corporation of Canada (Amcan) for additional shares in Minerals and Resources Corporation (Minorco). This was part of a reorganisation by which Anglo American Corporation of South Africa similarly exchanged its Congold and Amcan holdings and also its 36 per cent interest in Charter Consolidated for new Minorco shares. The effect has been substantially to enlarge and strengthen Minorco and to put it in a better position to expand its business. Our interest in the enlarged Minorco amounts to 23 per cent. In January of this year De Beers Industrial Corporation (Debinco) was merged with Anglo American Industrial Corporation (Amic) and our interest in the combined company amounts to 25 per cent. The enlarged Amic is a powerful and well diversified industrial group with total assets of about R2 700 million. Through this reconstruction we have acquired an improved growth and earnings potential in the industrial sector together with a wider spread of interests.

The year has been an exceptionally difficult one — indeed we have not gone through such hard times since I entered the business fifty years ago during the depression of the 30s. The structure of the trade built since then is, however, standing up firmly to this severe test. Our problems are no longer specific to the diamond industry but are world wide in nature. We are well equipped to see through what may yet remain to be faced of this time of depression and to take full advantage of better economic conditions when they return.

The treatment plant at the Jwaneng mine in Southern Botswana. Owned in partnership with the Government, Jwaneng was commissioned in January and is due to reach its initial rated capacity of 4.8 million tons per annum during the second half of this year. It is probable that the recovery grade will be higher than any other mine in this Group and the diamonds produced will be of medium quality. Jwaneng is probably the most important Kimberlite pipe discovered anywhere in the world since the original discoveries at Kimberley more than a century ago.

De Beers

De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited

Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa

For the full Report & Accounts for 1981 including the Chairman's Statement, please send this coupon to: The London Secretaries, Room 2, 40 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1AF.

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Slightly Dangerous to reign supreme

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

Slightly Dangerous, the ancient filly who has been following a private sale last week, can go some way towards justifying her colossal valuation by winning the 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket today.

When a horse bred the way she is — to stay a mile and a half — shows as much speed as she did at Ascot last autumn, and again at Newbury just under a fortnight ago, the odds are most encouraging.

Another indication that Slightly Dangerous could be exceptional was that she won her first race this season, and won it in style, when the majority of her stable companions were known to be backward and in need of a race.

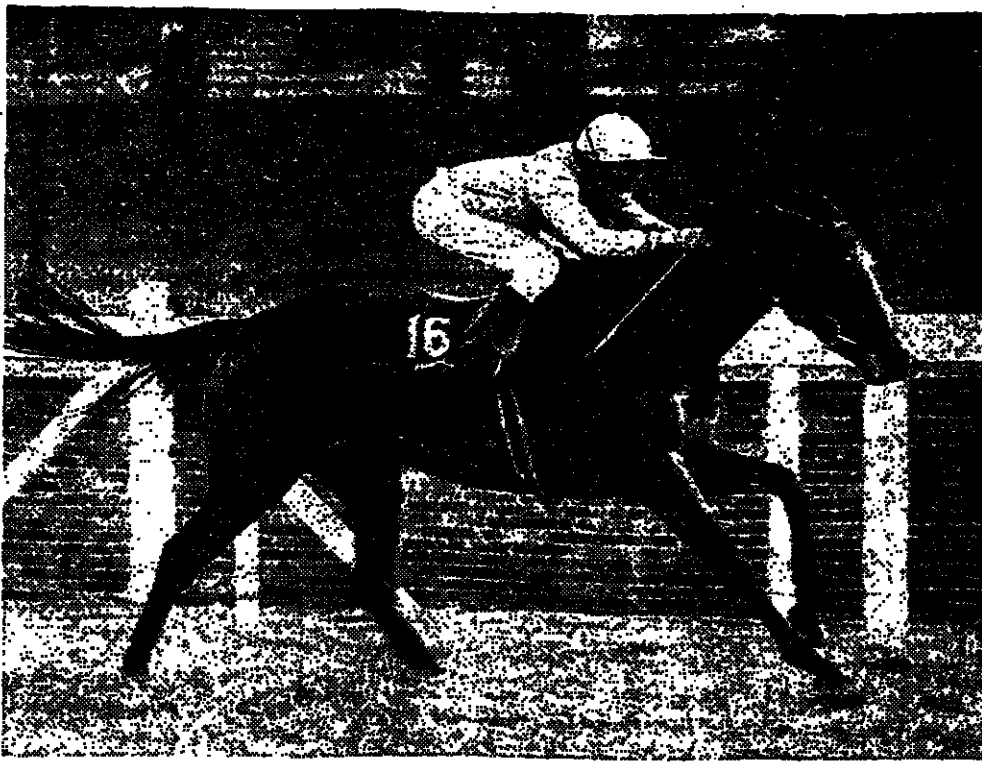
While conceding that gallopers can be misleading, it should be pointed out that Steve Causton, who has ridden Slightly Dangerous, has been a very successful jockey, and has won the Merion Stakes, last Friday and on Tuesday. He is in a good position to make an accurate assessment of the filly's chances.

My feeling is that the Fred Darling Stakes, which Slightly Dangerous won, was a better trial than the Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket the day before, and I know that Pat Eddery, who rode Harry Whang's filly, Zinzara, on the house, in these two races, takes the same view.

Today Eddery rides Merion's filly, who appears to have the beating of Slightly Dangerous. On the house, in these two races, takes the same view.

Likewise, Slightly Dangerous should have the measure of transatlantic, whose half-sister, Quick As Lightning, won this classic two years ago.

What I liked about Slightly Dangerous at Newbury was the manner of her victory. As soon as she was in command she was back on the lead, and her ears pricked, looking every inch a potential champion.



Slightly Dangerous: won the Nell Gwyn Stakes in impressive style

Electric's win fails to spark visions of Epsom glory

By John Karter, Racing Editor

For experts, whatever their field, ending up with egg all over the face is an occupational hazard and those involved in the exacting science of horse racing have more than their share of face wiping to do.

However, it was difficult not to agree with the water of post-race prognostications that Electric, who won yesterday's White Rose Stakes at Ascot, would not emulate his illustrious former stable companion, Shergar, by going on to glory at Epsom.

As a classic trial the White Rose has certainly not excelled in producing the goods in recent years, although last season it was won by Cut Above, who went on to win the St Leger.

Electric is to win a classic trial the White Rose has certainly not excelled in producing the goods in recent years, although last season it was won by Cut Above, who went on to win the St Leger.

Electric, who is quoted at around 2.1 for the Derby, will run in the Lingfield Trial. The blacken colt was bred by one of his owners, Bob McCracken, who owns him in partnership with Raymond Clifford-Turner (the owner of that useful filly Triple First) and Colin Ingley-Mackenzie, the former Hampshire cricket captain.

Of course, come June 2 we will probably be kicking ourselves that we did not take the 8-1 after Electric sailed home.

More immediately though, we were made to feel pretty stupid yesterday that we did not wide in and help ourselves to the 8-1 on the early about Gorge, who started at the still generous price of 6-1, on the Garter Stakes in the style of the best two-year-old seen out so far.



John Reid: successful on Kareena

week's Chester Cup and the enormous haul of Cheshire that goes with it.

Guy Harwood's horses are steadily coming to their best and he was given further encouragement by the fact that his 2,000 Guineas winner, Indian King, was ready to win the Autostar Victoria Cup from Beeliegh, the gambler of the Harwood hopes to win the Prix du Palais Royale at Longchamp or the Indian King, who is well enough bred to make a decent stallion.

Harwood, who was sympathetically handled by John Reid to win the Autostar Stakes in the Aga Khan's colours, will be ridden by Guy Harwood in the Stakes at the Royal meeting. She is the sort of gutsy, improving filly who could pay to follow in the highest class.

1,000 Guineas Field

3.10 1,000 GUINEAS STAKES (3-y-o fillies: £75,830: 1m) (15)
101 1110-1 CELESTIAL PATH (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
102 3-1 DIONE (C) (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
103 114-2 EXCLUSIVE ORDER (P) de Mouches J. Cunningham (10-1) 15
104 311-1 GLAMOUR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
105 00-000000 HELLO CLOUDES (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
106 401-2 PURPLE GOOD (P) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
107 011-20 ONE HUNDRED (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
108 311-1 PLAY IT SAFE (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
109 312-1 Slightly Dangerous (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
110 012-4 STRATAGEM (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
111 310-10 TRIPLE TIPP (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
112 111-10 WINK HEARTED (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15

Rest of the Newmarket programme

2.30 MAY STAKES (2-y-o colts and geldings: £2,670: 5f) (9 runners)
101 101-1 AMERICAN BOY (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
102 102-1 CASH OR CARRY (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
103 103-1 EAST A STAYDOWN (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
104 104-1 EXETER DAM (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
105 105-1 FINE EDGE (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
106 106-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
107 107-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
108 108-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
109 109-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
110 110-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15

Ascot results

2.0 (2.1) AUTOSTAR STAKES (3-y-o fillies: £75,830: 1m) (15)
101 101-1 AMERICAN BOY (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
102 102-1 CASH OR CARRY (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
103 103-1 EAST A STAYDOWN (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
104 104-1 EXETER DAM (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
105 105-1 FINE EDGE (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
106 106-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
107 107-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
108 108-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
109 109-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
110 110-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15

Newmarket selections

2.00 Fine Edge, 2.30 Touching Wood, 3.10 Slightly Dangerous, 3.40, Old Dominion, 4.15 Military Band, 4.45 Ricardio.
2.00 Sayl El Arab, 2.30 Touching Wood, 3.10 Triple Tiple, 3.40 Bracdale, 4.15 Military Band, 4.45 Ricardio.

Hereford N H

2.15 HOLMES HURDLE (Stallions: £500: 2m)
101 101-1 AMERICAN BOY (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
102 102-1 CASH OR CARRY (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
103 103-1 EAST A STAYDOWN (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
104 104-1 EXETER DAM (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
105 105-1 FINE EDGE (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
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108 108-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
109 109-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
110 110-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15

Norton stakes his claim

The 2,000 Guineas prospects of Steve Norton's filly, Zinzara, got a boost when the stable sent out Rubino to win the Jockey Club Selling Stakes by five lengths.

Both Norton and John Lowe, who partnered the colt in a free-for-all over six furlongs on Monday, are optimistic about their chances.

Rubino, who was owned by Pat Moran, attracted considerable attention when he was sent out to race at Ascot in 1981, when he was 2,000 guineas. He now goes to Clons Birling, to race in Stockholms.

The first race on the card saw an even contest, which was won by the 5-1 favourite, Zinzara, who was ridden by John Lowe.

Wharton, saddling his second winner of the season, in a free-for-all over six furlongs on Monday, is optimistic about their chances.

Racing for the millions

The United States plans to stage the richest day's racing ever — a seven-race spectacular with prize money and awards totalling \$15m (around £8m). The event is scheduled for the last Saturday in October 1984, and will probably take place in New York, either at Aqueduct or Belmont Park.

The day's principal race will be for three-year-olds and up, at weight-for-age. Over 14 miles in the dirt, it will carry prize money of \$5m.

A similar race on turf will be worth \$2m, and four other events will each carry a \$1m purse.

Plumpton NH

2.15 DOUBLE GLOUCESTER HURDLE (4-y-o novices: £800: 2m) (11 runners)
101 101-1 AMERICAN BOY (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
102 102-1 CASH OR CARRY (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
103 103-1 EAST A STAYDOWN (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
104 104-1 EXETER DAM (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
105 105-1 FINE EDGE (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
106 106-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
107 107-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
108 108-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
109 109-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
110 110-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15

Hexham NH

2.30 HAYDON CHASE Hurdle: £1,000: 2m
101 101-1 AMERICAN BOY (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
102 102-1 CASH OR CARRY (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
103 103-1 EAST A STAYDOWN (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
104 104-1 EXETER DAM (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
105 105-1 FINE EDGE (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
106 106-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
107 107-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
108 108-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
109 109-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
110 110-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15

Tuesday's late racing results

2.30 1,000 GUINEAS STAKES (3-y-o fillies: £75,830: 1m) (15)
101 101-1 AMERICAN BOY (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
102 102-1 CASH OR CARRY (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
103 103-1 EAST A STAYDOWN (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
104 104-1 EXETER DAM (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
105 105-1 FINE EDGE (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
106 106-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
107 107-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
108 108-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
109 109-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
110 110-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15

Ascot NH

2.30 1,000 GUINEAS STAKES (3-y-o fillies: £75,830: 1m) (15)
101 101-1 AMERICAN BOY (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
102 102-1 CASH OR CARRY (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
103 103-1 EAST A STAYDOWN (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
104 104-1 EXETER DAM (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
105 105-1 FINE EDGE (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
106 106-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
107 107-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
108 108-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
109 109-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15
110 110-1 FIVE STAR (R) Downes C. Mearns (10-1) 15

Royal book launched

It was from bitter experience that the Duke of Edinburgh learned the dos and don'ts of competition horse-drawn carriage driving, he revealed yesterday at a press conference to launch his book on the subject, published by Horse-Drawn Carriages Limited of Macleod (15).

To a journalist who remarked that coach drivers always seemed to be crashing, HRH replied: "We all did in the early days when we didn't know much about it."

He "broke the back" of the book aboard the royal yacht on a state visit to Sweden, and it came easily once he had got the chapter headings. "But I'm a frightfully bad correspondent," he confessed, "and would never write for a living, it is too uninteresting!" He did so, nevertheless, following a suggestion by his coachman, David Saunders.

Driving is not, he said, an Olympic sport, too few countries do it and the Olympic Games are meant to be concerned with athletes. Competition drivers are all shoulders and no legs and are not very fit. The sport is also very complicated to organize, especially when as many as 250 horses are involved as there were for the world championships in 1980.

Applications with full c.v.,
the names, addresses and
telephone numbers of two
references to The Warden,
Bradley College, Abingdon,
Oxfordshire OX11 2HR.

[illegible]

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Daville

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV/LONDON	Radio 4	Radio 3	Radio 2	World Service
<p>6.40 Open University: Landing an Aircraft; 7.05 Doctor; 7.30 Harbours (ends 7.55); 8.27 For Schools: Colleges, Geography (What is the land? 9.48 It's Maths; 10.10 Seeds and Plants; 10.32 Science; 11.05 Search (from 11.50) 12.30 News After News with Ian Ross and Muriel Stuart; 12.57 Financial Report. And news headlines; 1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Live in the foyer-studio — the singing star of the 1950s, Frankie Laine, still singing; 1.45 Chess-a-Week; 2.00 You and Me; 2.15 For Schools: Colleges, Music Time and, at 2.40, Television Club: Freshwater shark; 3.00 Close-down; 3.53 Regional News (not London); 3.55 Play School: Wilma Horneback's story The Hamp-backed Bridge (also on BBC 2, at 11.00 am)</p> <p>4.20 The Dark Pacific: comedy horror cartoon, Mind Your Manners, Dr. Dred.</p> <p>4.40 The Littlest Hobo: story of a parachuting shepherd dog.</p> <p>5.05 John Craven's Newsworld.</p> <p>5.10 Blue Peter: a preview of the Transglobe Ark will be shown to the Arctic expedition on its final leg.</p> <p>5.40 News with Richard Baker; 6.00 South East at six; 6.25 Nationwide.</p> <p>7.00 Tomorrow's World: includes items on mirrors designed for gorillas; the first proof of four-wheeled chairs; and ideas that link ordinary day with the living chemistry of the human body.</p> <p>7.25 Top of the Pops; with Richard Skinner.</p> <p>8.00 R Aint' Half Hot Mum: Repeat showing of the comedy series about an Army concert party in the Far East; tonight, the sergeant-inspired riot.</p> <p>8.30 Sorry! Comedy with Ronnie Corbett as the son of a possessive Mum and a henpecked Dad. Tonight, the prospect of a promotion interview is added to the son's many domestic problems.</p> <p>9.00 A Party Political Broadcast: On behalf of the Liberal Party. Can also be seen on BBC 2 tonight at 10.45 and on ITV at 10.00 pm.</p> <p>9.30 Bird of Prey: Episode two of this thriller about a middle-class civil servant (Richard Griffiths) who stumbles across what looks like an international financial fraud and a spectacular cover-up operation. Tonight, after the death of his Fraud Squad contact, he makes a bid to Brussels. Co-starring Nigel Davenport and Jeremy Child.</p> <p>10.20 Question Time. Tonight, the programme comes from Belfast. The panel consists of James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland; Mervyn Dwyer, shadow energy spokesman and former Labour Secretary of State for Northern Ireland; Inez McCormack, Northern Ireland officer for NUPE; and Peter Jenkins of the Guardian.</p> <p>11.20 A Kick up the Eighties: Satirical comedy show that pokes fun at the British obsession for leisure activities.</p> <p>11.50 So You Want to Stop Smoking: How to live longer and have more money in your pocket; 12.00 Weather forecast.</p>	<p>6.40 Open University: Ocean Cruise; 7.07 Occupation: Brian's Britain; 7.30 Cynical. Ends at 7.55; 11.00 Play School: Same as BBC 1, 3.55; 11.25 Close-down.</p> <p>5.10 The Bauhaus at Weimar: German furniture and craftwork in the 1920s (7).</p> <p>5.35 Weekend Outlook: Open University preview.</p> <p>5.40 Back Rogers: episode 4 of this old adventure serial.</p> <p>6.00 The Great Egg Race: Teams from Oxford University, St George's Hospital, London and Burton-on-Trent in an automatic music contest.</p> <p>6.30 Sorry! Comedy. I Didn't See You: The Part One test for motorcyclists. Also, the training of Ministry examiners.</p> <p>6.55 Cartoon: Charley Squash Goes to Town.</p> <p>7.00 County Hall: local government series; 7.25 News summary.</p> <p>7.30 Fancy Fish: Useful information for the home aquarist.</p> <p>7.55 The Mick Burke Award: Another three expedition films — and the naming of the competition winners (see Choice).</p> <p>9.00 Call My Bluff Word: Identification game played by Frank Muir, Hannah Gordon, Patrick Garland, Arthur Marshall, Diane Keen and Ian Ogilvy. The word-puzzle is Robert Robinson.</p> <p>9.30 The Transatlantic: A Master of Life and Death: A play by the Harefield Hospital team when a transplant patient dies. Meanwhile, Bruce Anderson continues to do well.</p> <p>10.10 The Old Grey Whistle Test: Tonight's feature: Mervyn Dwyer, the singer and songwriter Chris Rea, from Middlesbrough.</p> <p>10.45 A Party Political Broadcast: by the Liberal Party. Also on BBC 1 at 9.05pm and on ITV at 10.00pm.</p> <p>10.50 Newsnight: comment on the day's most important news stories. Plus the latest bulletins. Ends at 11.40pm.</p>	<p>9.36 For Schools: Spring in the Woods; 9.52 Lambing in Yorkshire; 10.08 Folk Dancing; 10.28 Social Development; 10.48 A-level Physics; 11.05 Basic Maths; 11.22 All about Time; 11.39 TV reporting; 12.00 The Woolfies: a surprise breakfast; 12.10 Get Up and Go: with Beryl Reid and Mooncat; 12.30 The Sullivan: Australian family serial; 1.00 News from ITN. And Financial Times Index; 1.20 Thames area news; 1.30 Crown Court: The jury's verdict in the case of the woman (Lynda Marchal) injured in the off-limits; 2.00 After Noon: a discussion on the "total allergy to the modern world"; 2.15 Treatment; 2.25 Newmarket Racing: We see the 3.40, 3.10 (The 1000 Guineas Stakes) and the 3.40, 3.50 The Cuckoo Wakes: comedy series, with Diane Keen and David Roper (7).</p> <p>4.20 Watch It: Little House on the Prairie. The return of Hester's husband.</p> <p>5.15 Survival: Too Hot or Too Cold. Wildlife in the hot deserts — and in the freezing cold ones, too.</p> <p>5.45 News from ITN; 6.00 Thames area news; 6.30 Thames Report. Coverage of the national and international sporting scenes. Includes a look back at a week of international football, including the Wales versus England match, and a look forward to the England versus USA speedway international.</p> <p>7.00 Horace: Final episode in this comedy drama series about a 30-year-old with the mind of a child. Tonight, he tries to make friends with four boys nearer his own mental age. With Barry Jackson as Horace.</p> <p>7.30 Spenser's Police: Police comedy series. A troublesome time for Spenser (Donald Sutherland) when a briefcase filled with jewels is found in the back seat of the police car he shared with a lady friend.</p> <p>8.00 Falcon Crest: Drama series, set in the California wine lands. The second of the door to a private room. With Jane Wymann and Robert Foxworth.</p> <p>9.00 Janet and Company: Janet Brown as Sue Ellen as Scarlett O'Hara in a variation on the theme of Gone with the Wind. Also "Mrs Thatcher" in Swinging London; and "Zsa Zsa Gabor" and Derek Batey meet in Mr and Mrs.</p> <p>9.30 TV Eye: Thames Television's weekly current affairs programme continues to scrutinise the Falkland Islands crisis. Julian Argent and his team report from Argentina, and there is news of the latest developments on the home front.</p> <p>10.00 A Party Political Broadcast: by the Liberal Party; 10.05 News from ITN. And Thames news headlines.</p> <p>10.50 Hill Street Blues: Police drama series. A cab driver is after the 50,000-dollar reward offered for information about the murder of a lawyer.</p> <p>11.50 Ladies' Man: New comedy series about the only man working on a women's magazine. Starring Lawrence Pressman.</p> <p>12.20 What the Papers Say: with Paul Foot of the Daily Mail.</p> <p>12.35 Close: Mary Craig on love and the mystery of life.</p>	<p>6.00 News, including: 6.45 Prayer for the Day; 7.00, 8.00 Today's News; 8.20, 8.30 News; 8.45, 8.55 Thought for the Day; 9.00 News; 9.10, 9.20 News; 9.30, 9.40 News; 9.50, 10.00 News; 10.10, 10.20 News; 10.30, 10.40 News; 10.50, 11.00 News; 11.10, 11.20 News; 11.30, 11.40 News; 11.50, 12.00 News; 12.10, 12.20 News; 12.30, 12.40 News; 12.50, 1.00 News; 1.10, 1.20 News; 1.30, 1.40 News; 1.50, 2.00 News; 2.10, 2.20 News; 2.30, 2.40 News; 2.50, 3.00 News; 3.10, 3.20 News; 3.30, 3.40 News; 3.50, 4.00 News; 4.10, 4.20 News; 4.30, 4.40 News; 4.50, 5.00 News; 5.10, 5.20 News; 5.30, 5.40 News; 5.50, 6.00 News; 6.10, 6.20 News; 6.30, 6.40 News; 6.50, 7.00 News; 7.10, 7.20 News; 7.30, 7.40 News; 7.50, 8.00 News; 8.10, 8.20 News; 8.30, 8.40 News; 8.50, 9.00 News; 9.10, 9.20 News; 9.30, 9.40 News; 9.50, 10.00 News; 10.10, 10.20 News; 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Parents fight off Moonie attempt to see daughter

Mr Charles Raine and his wife, Hazel, facing an allegation that their daughter had been abducted from the Moonie sect for "deprogramming", fought off an attempt in the High Court in London yesterday to force them to disclose her whereabouts.

The sect, the Unification Church, said that Miss Nicola Raine, aged 28, who joined them in the United States, was being detained against her will on the instructions of her parents. However, its application for a writ of habeas corpus, requiring the parents to produce their daughter, was rejected.

Lord Justice May said that the sect's application was "unfounded" and that the parents were not obliged to disclose to others who have no authority to demand it the whereabouts of their daughter.

He said that on the balance of probabilities Miss Raine was, on April 6, "intercepted" by a person or persons unknown and persuaded not to return to the sect's British headquarters at Lancaster Gate in west London.

It was probable that she had been persuaded to go to the country where she met her parents, who live at Perry Mill Cottage, Ullenah, Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire.

The judge said he did not think Miss Raine had been physically abducted. The court was not dealing with a child, but with an adult woman. She could easily have sought assistance by screaming.

After nine days with her

parents and perhaps friends Miss Raine probably went to the Continent, the judge said. According to the parents, she was still there.

Lord Justice May agreed that the mother's written evidence was "unfounded" and that the sect's application was "unfounded". But the court was not prepared to infer from that that she was now in the custody of her parents "and unable to escape if she wished".

The judge said the mother was "understandably concerned" that the sect should not discover the present whereabouts of her daughter lest it should seek to reimpose its influence on her.

Although parents were not entitled to detain an adult daughter against her wishes, they were entitled to advise and persuade their children "if they think necessary, with emphasis".

The judge, sitting with Mr Justice Stephen Brown, said some people, and Mr and Mrs Raine in particular, had considerable hostility for the Unification Church, "which is clearly very possessive of its members".

Church members feared "deprogramming" the expunging of the sect's influence over the minds and wills of its members.

Afterwards Mrs Raine said they had been in contact with their other daughter, Fiona, also a member of the Unification Church and at present in the United States.



Frank Johnson in the Commons

Secret weapon of the wardroom

Somehow, after nearly four weeks of it, the crisis still has a dream-like quality. Is it really happening?

Those of us who are essentially creatures of the world, as it has been post-Suez, had been assured all our adult lives that Britain was no longer capable of doing this sort of thing. All the best people said so. Yet it seems to be about to try to do it, though the precise nature of the "it" remains unclear. Admittedly, the best people may have been right. There may be a debate. That does not mean thinking about, though, but about it one must. But the best people have not been running this crisis.

Anthony Mann has been in charge. As well as being much else, the crisis is thus a test between two ways of looking at the world. It is either her or them.

Yesterday at Westminster was a hull. Within a few days we would know what the outcome would be. But the situation seemed as surreal as ever. The rational part of all our natures no doubt retained the hope that events would not turn bloody, that they would remain unreal. But what of the irrational part? What is the part which existence politicians, like the rest of us, cannot acknowledge, except in others. That is the part that by now, after all this waiting and shuffling, wants there to be dramatic events on the islands so that great parties in the state can revert to their tribal passions.

The Tories want to identify with the pomp and circumstance of glorious war. The Labour Party wants to accuse the Tories of warring on lives.

All of which is natural. But it is the strictest sense of the word, in keeping with nature, to deplore it, rather than point to it.

Yesterday's hull, moved about the place. Today is the Falklands debate. For that, and with experts adopting a moment of their own, it could well be for days the House will be little else. But yesterday the principals of the "struggle" — Mrs Thatcher, Mr Pym, Mr Owen, Mr Benn — were nowhere to be seen. The only sign of reality, those few men who remained in the chamber for the main debate listened to exchanges about the (by comparison) peaceful subject of Northern Ireland. Even the other attraction, Scottish nationalism, seemed peaceful in comparison with impending events in the South Atlantic.

The day was proof of how in politics the sudden, convulsive turn of events can banish even the concern of more familiar concerns. Thus Mr James Prior, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, commended his proposals for new elected bodies in Northern Ireland. Mr Concanon, Labour's shadow spokesman, was unenthusiastic. Mr Pym, for the official Unionist, was hostile, though Mr Paisley, for the Paisleyites, was hostile and disagreeable. Mrs Shirley Williams, for the Social Democratic Party, wandered around in the middle in circles of goodwill.

But aloft in the gallery, one's mind kept drifting away into the South Atlantic. One does not really want anything horrible to happen, the inner voice of rationality kept on insisting. Was there any chance that, even at this late hour, the Falklands issue would revert to that harmless, Gilbert and Sullivan status it had always occupied until four weeks ago?

I began to invest high hopes in the effect on the assembly's morale of that dinner which our officers served those captured Argentine officers on board one of our ships after we took South Georgia. Word might by now have spread among the Argentine forces that this is what they can expect unless they quit the islands immediately. They'll think twice about taking us on now that some of them have felt six inches of cold, British food inside them. They'll know that a nation which can serve up lethal stuff like an average British dinner, is not a nation to be trifled with, that is, if they ever dared eat one of our tinned ones.

And there's plenty more where that dinner came from. Panic could even now be spreading among the Argentine brass that this is how the barbarous British treat captured officers. The clock is ticking. There is still time for them to avoid raising knife and fork against us.

Benn fails with task force motion

Continued from page 1

They appear to have been the only in outline that the military options are, but they were not asked for their opinions and there was no detailed discussion.

The meeting was said by one participant to have been agreed to only with reluctance by the Prime Minister, after senior colleagues had urged her to give the Cabinet the fullest possible picture. From Mrs Thatcher's point of view it appears to have gone well, with confidence expressed in the inner Cabinet's handling of the crisis so far.

The Government was last night awaiting Argentina's response to the detailed proposals drawn up by the United States to resolve the

Falklands crisis before further violence breaks out in the South Atlantic (David Cross writes).

Whitehall officials said last night that the ball was now in Argentina's court as far as the diplomatic exchanges between London, Washington and Buenos Aires were concerned. They pointed out that Britain's latest views had been transmitted to Washington personally by Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, in his visit to Washington for talks with Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, at the end of last week.

The Foreign Office announced yesterday that a copy of Mr Haig's latest peace proposals had been

received in London and was now "under consideration" by Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues. It is understood that the formal proposals reached London late on Tuesday but were not discussed in any detail at yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

Labour's national executive yesterday rejected a call from Mr Wedgwood Benn that the task force should be kept from the Falkland Islands (Anthony Bevins writes).

But it unanimously endorsed a resolution repeating Mr Michael Foot's demand that the Government should respond "immediately and favourably" to the appeal by the Secretary-General of the United Nations that the "escalation" be halted.

Continued from page 1

unbreakable spirit and faith in final victory," it declared.

The military junta, meeting in emergency session, issued its thirty-fifth and toughest communiqué on the crisis, leaving no doubt that the war machine was ready, and that conciliation efforts were now unlikely to succeed.

The communiqué, issued at 11 am local time (3 pm British time) after the declaration of the state of war, said the Argentine expected military operations in 24 to 48 hours. In an apparent reference to the South Georgia victory, it rejected "the psychological action by the British invasion" which have strengthened Argentina's spirit and will to fight.

Continued from page 1

Virtually the entire fleet of nine destroyers, four submarines, one cruiser and the aircraft carrier, 25 de Mayo, was at sea tonight.

Admiral Cougher Allara, commander of the fleet, was on board the carrier, but it seemed that still he had not directed the main body of ships to enter the 200-mile combat zone surrounding the Falklands.

The latest American peace plan was passed to the Argentine authorities a few days ago by Mr Harold Shlaudeman, the United States ambassador in Buenos Aires. The junta today told Clarín, the Argentine newspaper with the best connections in the military, that the proposal fell short of the Government's conditions.

Against a background of cliffs at Freshwater Bay on the Isle of Wight, a competitor makes for the finishing line in one of the events in the British Hang Gliding Open this week (Frances Gibb writes).

Sixty competitors have entered the championship, the first international hang-gliding event to be held in Britain.

The competitor who gains most points over the eight days until Sunday, in such events as the Blackgang Run, a 10-mile dash at speeds of up to 40 mph from near the Needles to St Catherine's Lighthouse, receives £1,000.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother attends the celebrations to mark the centenary of Queen Mary's London Needlework Guild: firstly a thanksgiving service in The Queen's Chapel, Marlborough Gate, 11.55, and later the annual general meeting in St James's Palace, 3.25.

The Prince of Wales opens new premises of Quaker Oaks, Bridge Road, Southall, Middlesex, 10.30.

and later visits the National Association of Asian Youth in Southall, 12.15, and the National Centre for Industrial Language Training in Southall, 2.30.

The Prince of Wales attends a lecture by Professor M. W. Thring, "Engineering for Humanity", at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1, Birdcage Walk, SW1, 6pm.

Princess Anne, Patron of the Riding for the Disabled Association, opens the Jackie Brutton Riding Centre at Cheltenham Racecourse, 2.30.

Exhibitions in progress

The Treasures of Towneley 1802-1882: exhibition celebrating 80 years of the Museum Service and highlighting some outstanding exhibits. Towneley Hall Art Gallery and Museum, Burnley, Lancs. 10.30 to 5.30, Sun 12 to 5, closed Sat (until October 30).

Exhibition of paintings by Christopher Johnson, The Grange, Rotherham, Mon, Tues, Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Wed (until May 30).

Etchings by Jean Frelaut, Charrington Print Room, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, Tues to Sat 2 to 5, Sun 2.15 to 5, closed Mon (until June 27).

Talks, lectures

Weights and measures, by Anthony Wilson, Science Museum, 1.10.

Florentine paintings of the lower floor galleries, by Audrey P. Tyndall, National Gallery, 1.10.

Strange goings-on in Rome, by Richard Humphreys, Tate Gallery, 1.10.

J. L. L. and the return, by David Williams, 11.30.

Victorian Jewellery, by Judy Rudoe, 1.15, both at British Museum.

Workshop — Silversmithing, Museum of London, 1.10.

The Memphis tomb of Horemheb, commander-in-chief of Tutankhamun, by Dr Geoffrey Martin, British Museum, 6.15.

Snails and their relatives, Natural History Museum, 3.

Manuscripts from the Byzantine world, by Jane Lee, British Library, 2, Sheridan Street, W1, 2.

The Thames Walk: a slide talk by David Sharap, Central Library, St Nicholas Way, Sutton, 8.15.

Music

Recital by Paul Edmund-Davies (piano) and Rachel Masters (harp), The Hexagon, Reading, 1.10.

Piano recital by Marjorie Few and Norman Ferry, Stainforth Middle School, Church Road, Doncaster, 7.30.

Walks

A journey through Dickens's London, meet Embankment Underground, 11.

The City of London 2,000 years of history, meet Bank Underground, (Mansion House exit), 11.

City churches, meet Bank Underground (Mansion House exit), 2.

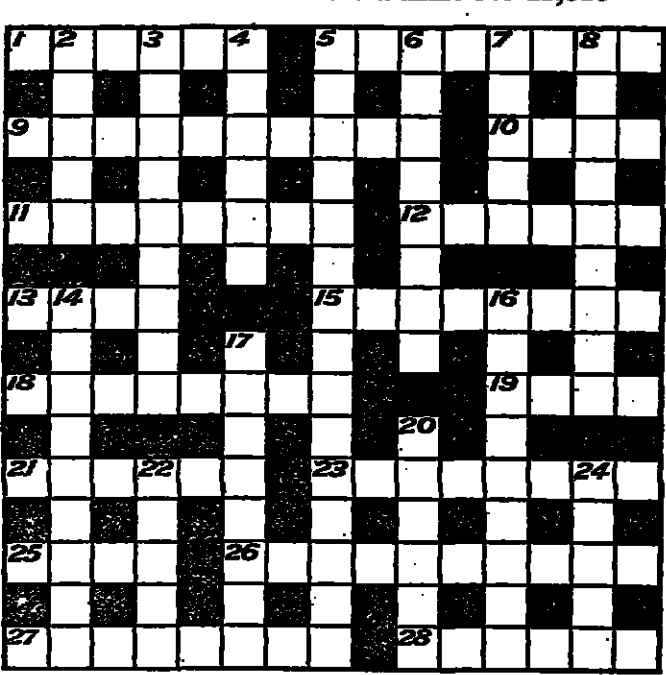
General

Health and Leisure '82: Alexandra Pavilion, Alexandra Park, Wood Green, N22, 11 to 7; admission: adults £2, children and OAPs £1.

Maritime England in floral art: Holker Hall and park, Cumbria, 10.30 to 8.

London Homes and Gardens Show, Rousham Park, Croydon, 11 to 6, admission £1.50 adults, children OAPs £1.

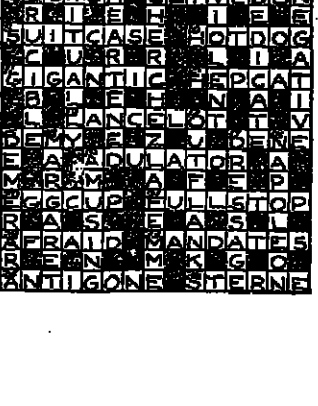
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,818



- ACROSS
- University affected you and me (6).
 - This year involved great excitement (8).
 - Loyalty for instance in marriage (10).
 - Two notes, that's a lot (4).
 - Like Henry Morgan, perhaps, 's best lot (8).
 - Gracious! An earlier model than C-nine did you say? (6).
 - Beware of place like Woolley Hole (4).
 - The siren's welcome song (3-5).
 - The infantry have to maintain some standing (8).
 - Weapon — we switched the sight (4).
 - Dramatist takes care of a minor character (6).
 - Right? 's right in every investigation (6).
 - Miscible oils in store (4).
 - Billy booked for being this? (10).
 - Turning after river, several came to grief (8).
 - Make speech about national leader being decorated (6).

- DOWN
- In the end, this Titan didn't quite make it (5).
 - Grant was a gift I had accepted (9).
 - Aboard the rears going up in this? (6).
 - Secret ends all the anger that's aroused (6,3,6).
 - Crooked money invested in worthless horse (6).
 - Mischiefous little fellow drowned by rising river (5).
 - Make one at the wicket get up with some speed (9).
 - Record I put in a puzzle — "Say you're sorry" (9).
 - Left out — I haven't a moment (9).
 - Do many instruments produce the blues? (8).
 - Change does include copper coin (6).
 - House party up in Lincoln (5).
 - Seek love, in short (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,817



Last chance to see

Australia: Splash of Colour: Abstract paintings by Peggy Perrins Shaw, Qantas Airways, Qantas Gallery, corner of Piccadilly and Old Bond Street, W1, 9.30 to 5.00 (ends today).

Anglo-Persian Carpet Company exhibition of Oriental rugs and textiles: Anglo-Persian Carpet Company gallery, The Arcade South Kensington Station, SW7, 9.30 to 6 (ends today).

Marathon trains

Southern Region is to run many extra trains between Charing Cross and Greenwich on Sunday, May 9, to take spectators and entrants to the starting point of the London Marathon in Greenwich Park. Half price "Weekend Awayday" fares to Greenwich will be available from most stations in the area. For full details, telephone 01-828 5100.

New ferry service

A ferry service between Liverpool and Belfast will begin on Saturday operated by Belfast Car Ferries Ltd. P and O closed its services on the route six months ago. The vessel on the new service is the 5,285-ton St. Colum, which has capacity for 1,040 passengers and 210 cars.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on the Falkland Islands.

Lords (3): Administration of Justice Bill: report. Debate on EEC agricultural trade policy.

Anniversaries today

Sir Thomas Beecham was born at St Helens, Lancashire, 1879.

John Cleveland, Royalist poet, died in London, 1658. Japan celebrates its National Day today because it is the birthday of Emperor Hirohito, who was born on April 29, 1901.

Stamp counters

The number of Post Office philatelic sales counters reaches fifty next month with the opening of new counters at Southend-on-Sea on May 12 and Worcester on May 26. The new counters will sell the full range of philatelic items offered by the Post Office.

The Southend counter will be in the head Post Office, Western Road, and will be open Monday to Friday, 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.30pm, and from 10.30am to 12.30pm on Saturday.

Worcester's counter will be at the head Post Office, 8-10 Foregate Street, and will be open Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 12 noon, and 2pm to 5pm, and 9.30am to 12pm on Saturday.

Calling Falklands

The BBC external services has increased the frequency of its programme, Calling the Falklands, from three times a week to nightly. The programme, broadcast on short-wave, begins at 10.15 each evening. Relatives and friends of the islanders can pass out messages by telephone 01-240 3456 (extensions 2757 or 2758).

Weather forecast

A showery NW airstream will cover the British Isles.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, Central S and Central N England, Midlands, Channel Islands: Scattered showers developing, sunny periods, wind NW, moderate to fresh; max temp 13 to 15C (55 to 59F).

E Anglia, E and NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee: Showers, sunny intervals; wind NW, fresh to strong; max temp 10 to 13C (50 to 55F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District: Sunny periods after showers, becoming cloudy with perhaps a little rain later; wind NW, fresh, moderating; max temp 11 to 13C (52 to 55F).

Ireland, Argyll, Glasgow, N Scotland, Argyll, Glasgow, N Ireland: Sunny periods, a few showers, becoming cloudy with more general rain; wind NW fresh, moderating; max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 50F).

Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Showers, some windy; wind NW, fresh to strong; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 49F).

400ft

Forecast for tomorrow and Saturday: Showers at first in E, mainly dry in the S.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: Wind NW, strong to gale; sea very rough. S West, English Channel: (E) Wind N or NW, strong; sea moderate or rough. St. George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NW, moderate or rough; sea moderate or rough, very rough in N Irish Sea.

Lighting-up time

First Quarter: Tomorrow.

London 6.50 pm to 5.15 am.

Bristol 6.00 pm to 5.15 am.

Edinburgh 5.17 pm to 5.25 am.

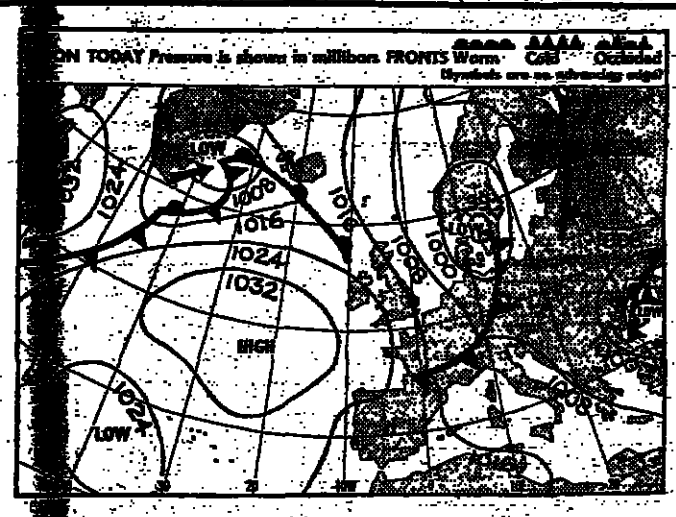
Newcastle 5.45 pm to 5.31 am.

Pasadena 9.5 pm to 5.31 am.

Yesterday

Temperature at midday yesterday: a, sunny; b, light; c, cloud.

Station	C	F	G	H
Belfast	14	57	15	59
Birmingham	14	57	15	59
Blackpool	11	52	12	54
Bristol	15	59	16	61
Cardiff	11	52	12	54
Edinburgh	12	54	13	55
Glasgow	11	52	12	54



High tides

Location	AM	PM
London Bridge	6.30	6.55
Aberdeen	6.15	6.45
Belfast	3.40	4.10
Birmingham	10.15	10.45
Bristol	6.30	6.55
Cardiff	10.15	10.45
Edinburgh	6.15	6.45
Glasgow	6.15	6.45
Liverpool	6.30	6.55
London	6.30	6.55
Manchester	10.15	10.45
Newcastle	6.15	6.45
Nottingham	10.15	10.45
Southampton	6.30	6.55
Swansea	6.15	6.45
Wolverhampton	10.15	10.45

Around Britain

Station	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
Belfast	12	W	100	1015
Birmingham	14	W	100	1015
Bristol	15	W	100	1015
Cardiff	11	W	100	1015
Edinburgh	12	W	100	1015
Glasgow	11	W	100	1015
London	14	W	100	1015
Manchester	10	W	100	1015
Newcastle	12	W	100	1015
Nottingham	10	W	100	1015
Southampton	14	W	100	1015
Swansea	12	W	100	1015
Wolverhampton	10	W	100	1015

Abroad

Station	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
Amsterdam	12	W	100	1015
Berlin	14	W	100	1015
Brussels	12	W	100	1015
Copenhagen	10	W	100	1015
Hamburg	12	W	100	1015
Paris	14	W	100	1015
Rome	16	W	100	1015
Stockholm	10	W	100	1015
Vienna	12	W	100	1015
Zurich	14	W	100	1015